



LEGION OF
SUPER-HEROES

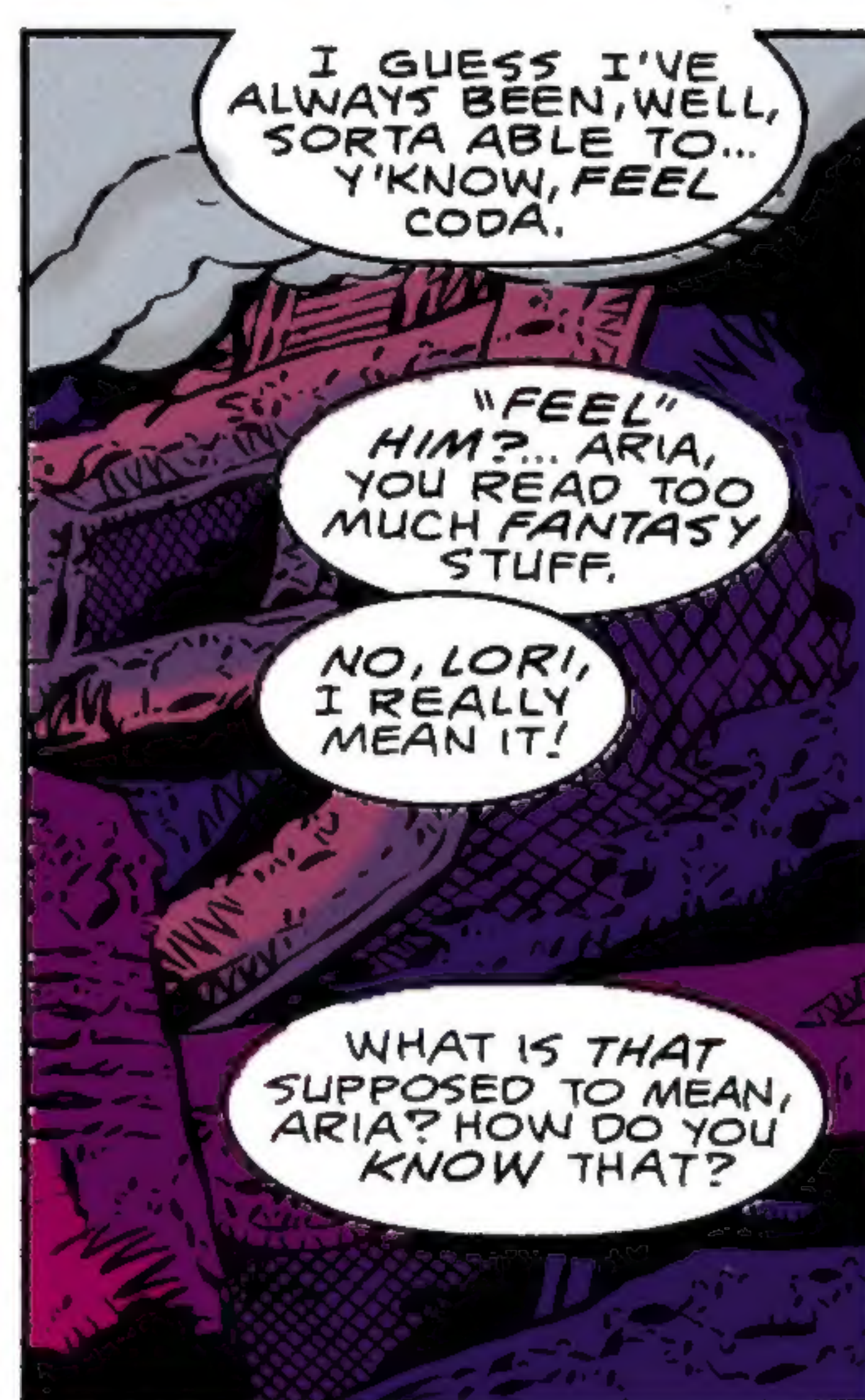
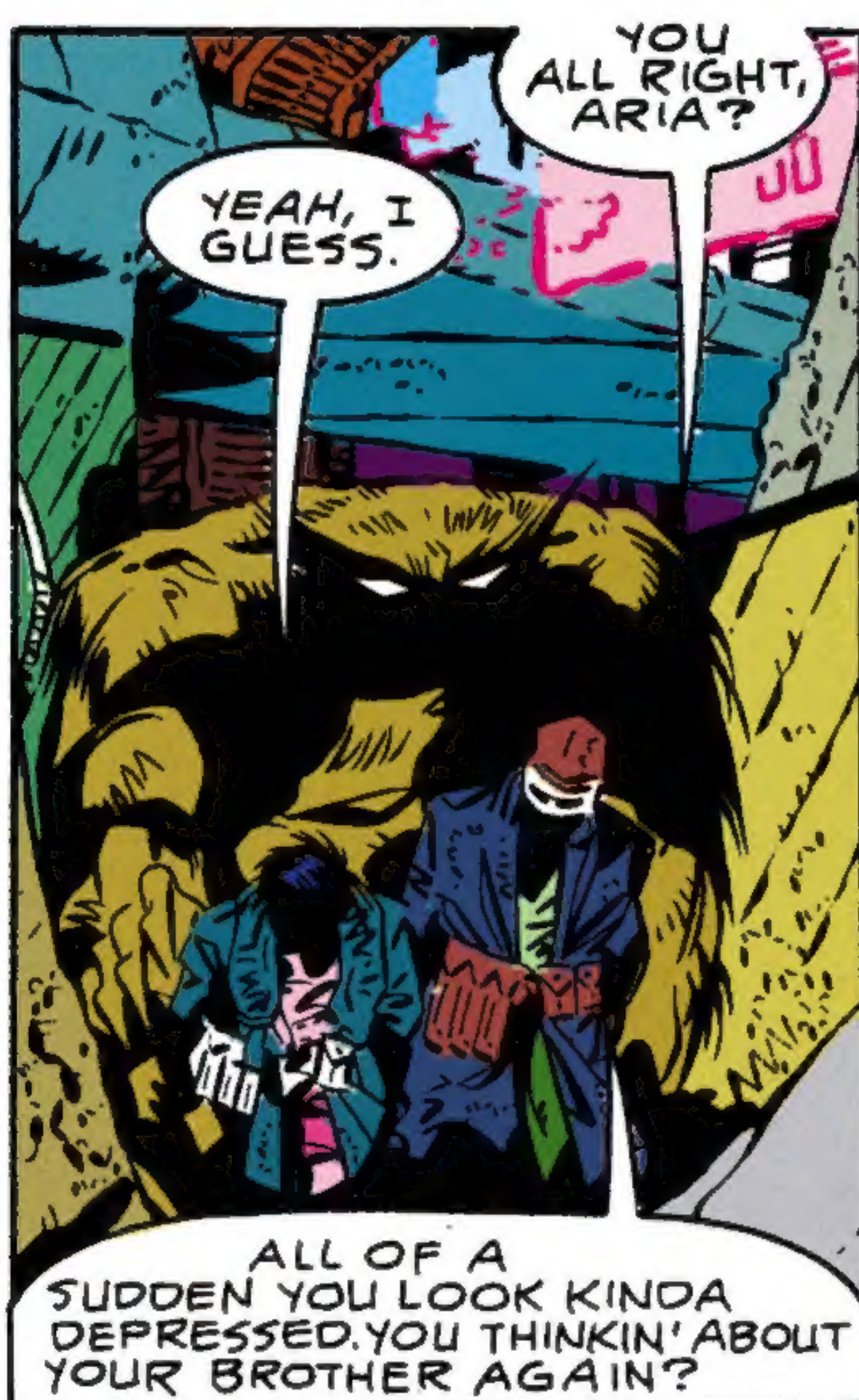
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SEP 91

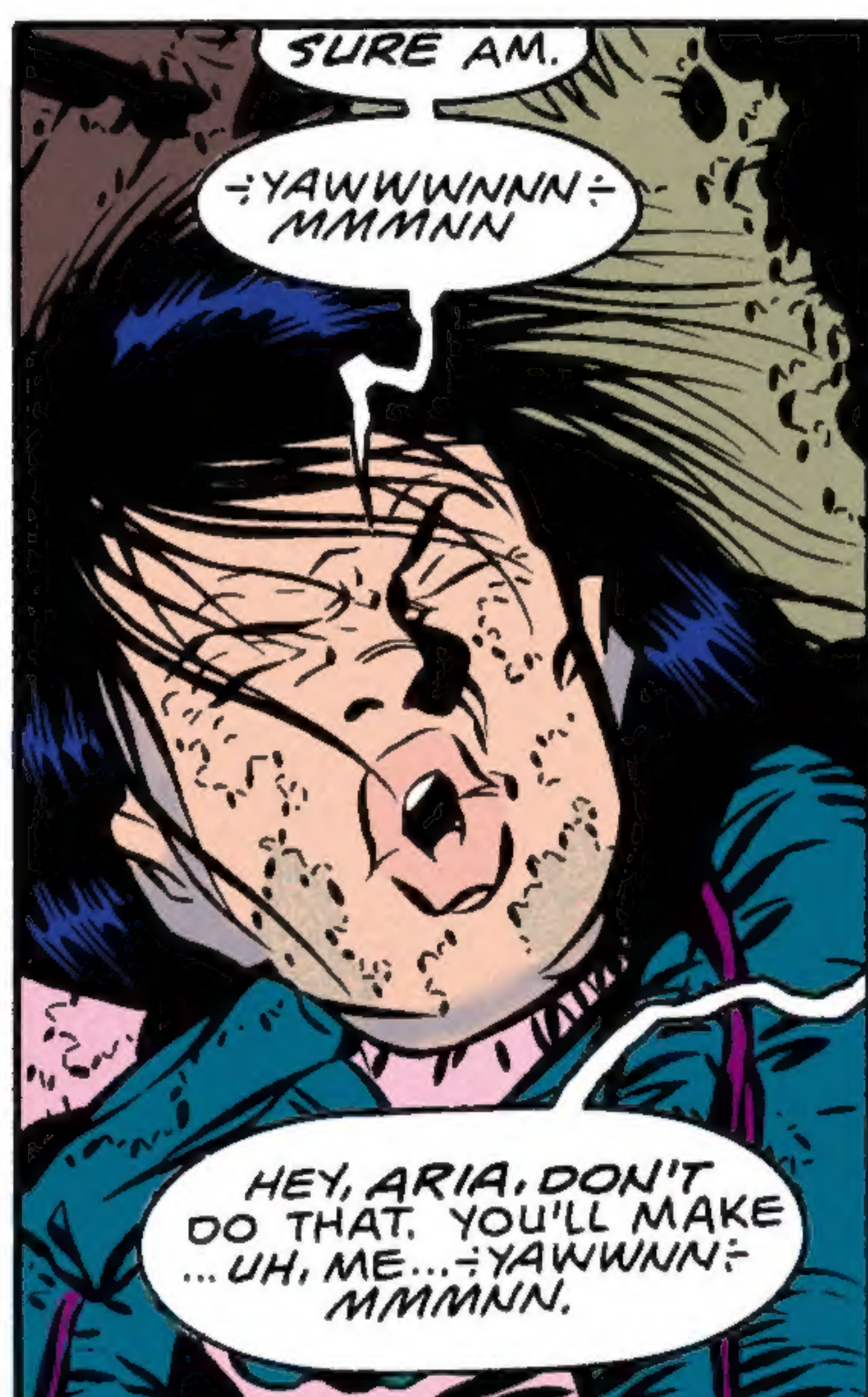
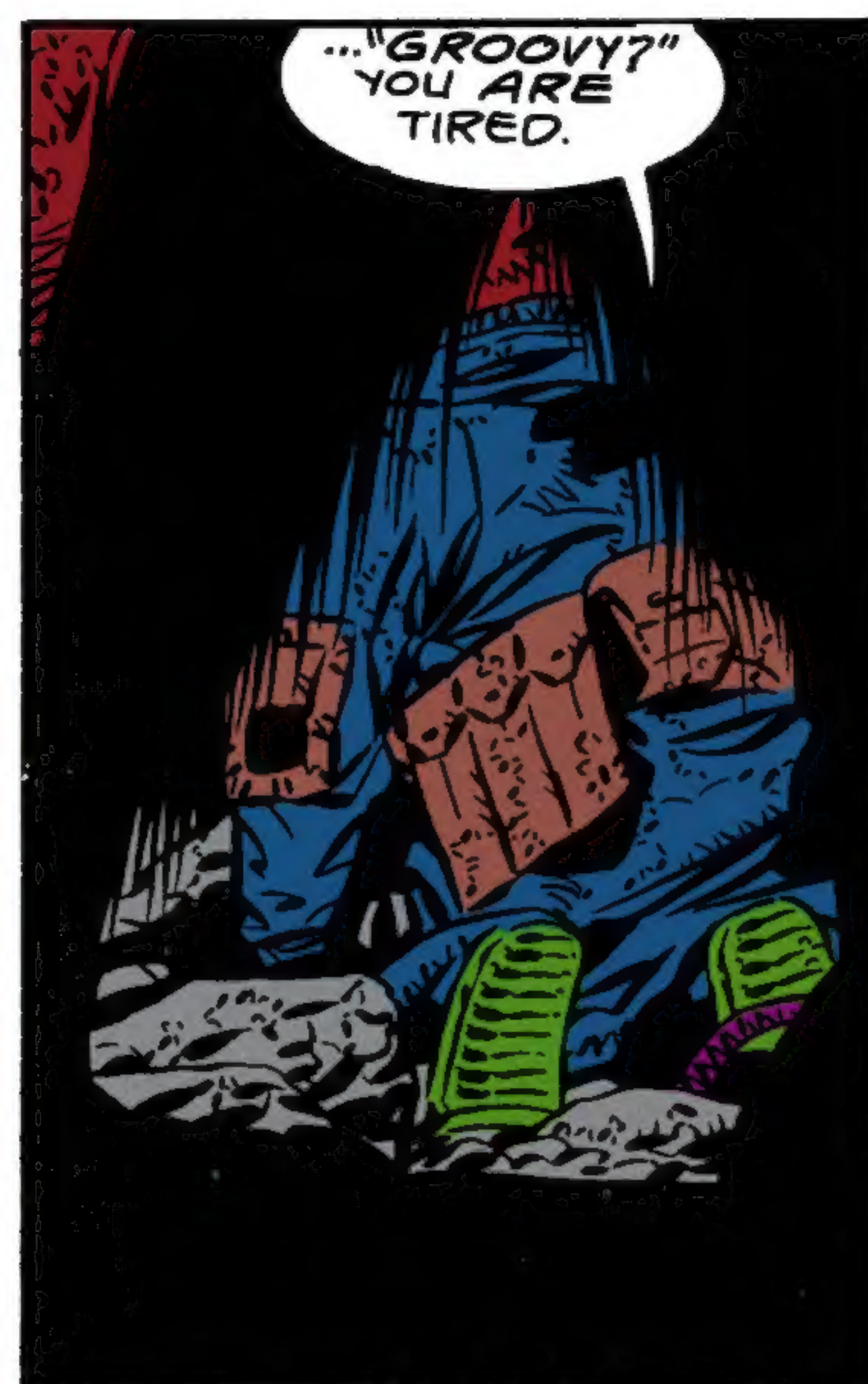
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

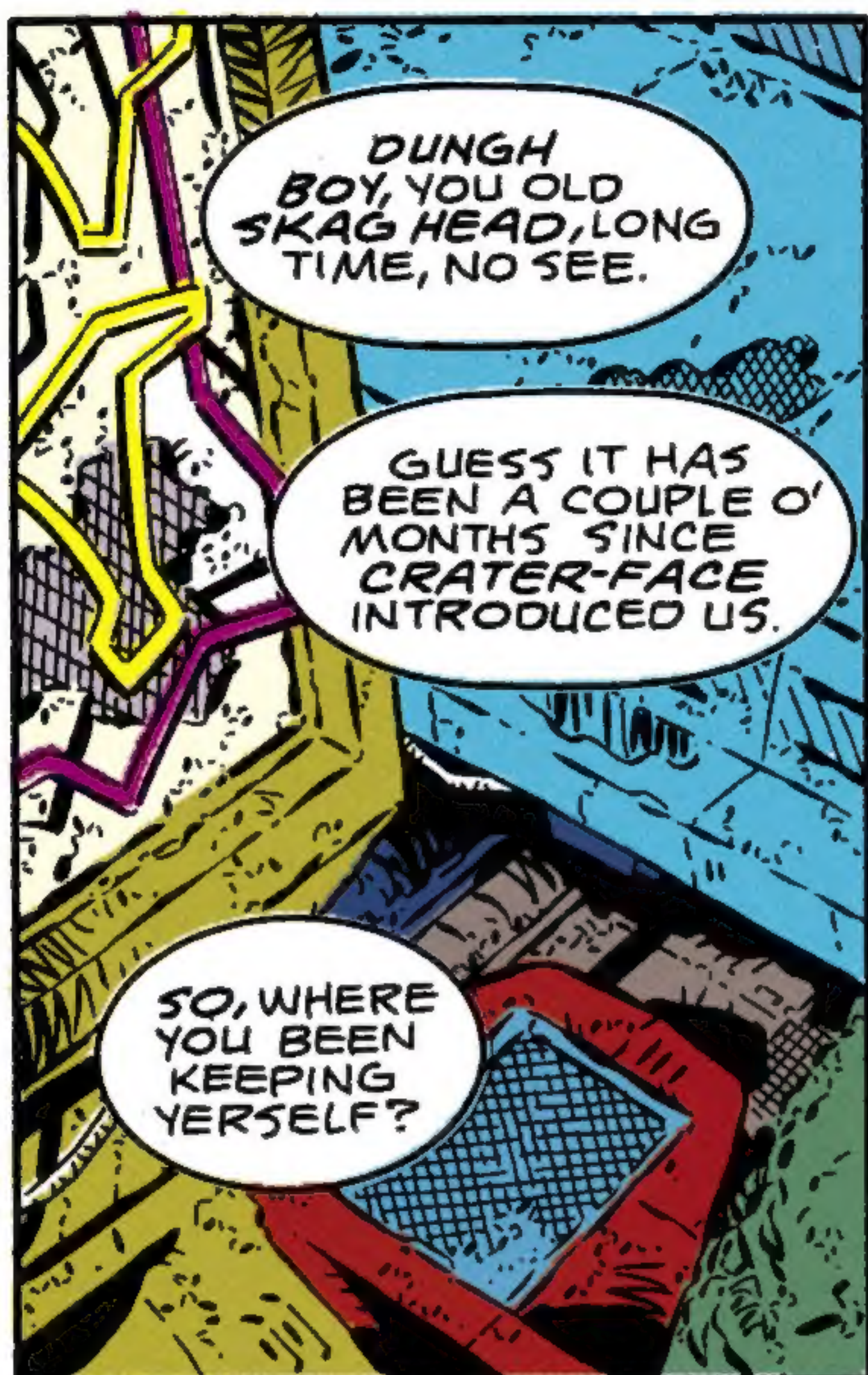


the quiet
darkness: PART II

GORDON GIFFEN T & M BIERBAUM PEARSON







DUNGH
BOY, YOU OLD
SKAG HEAD, LONG
TIME, NO SEE.

GUESS IT HAS
BEEN A COUPLE O'
MONTHS SINCE
CRATER-FACE
INTRODUCED US.

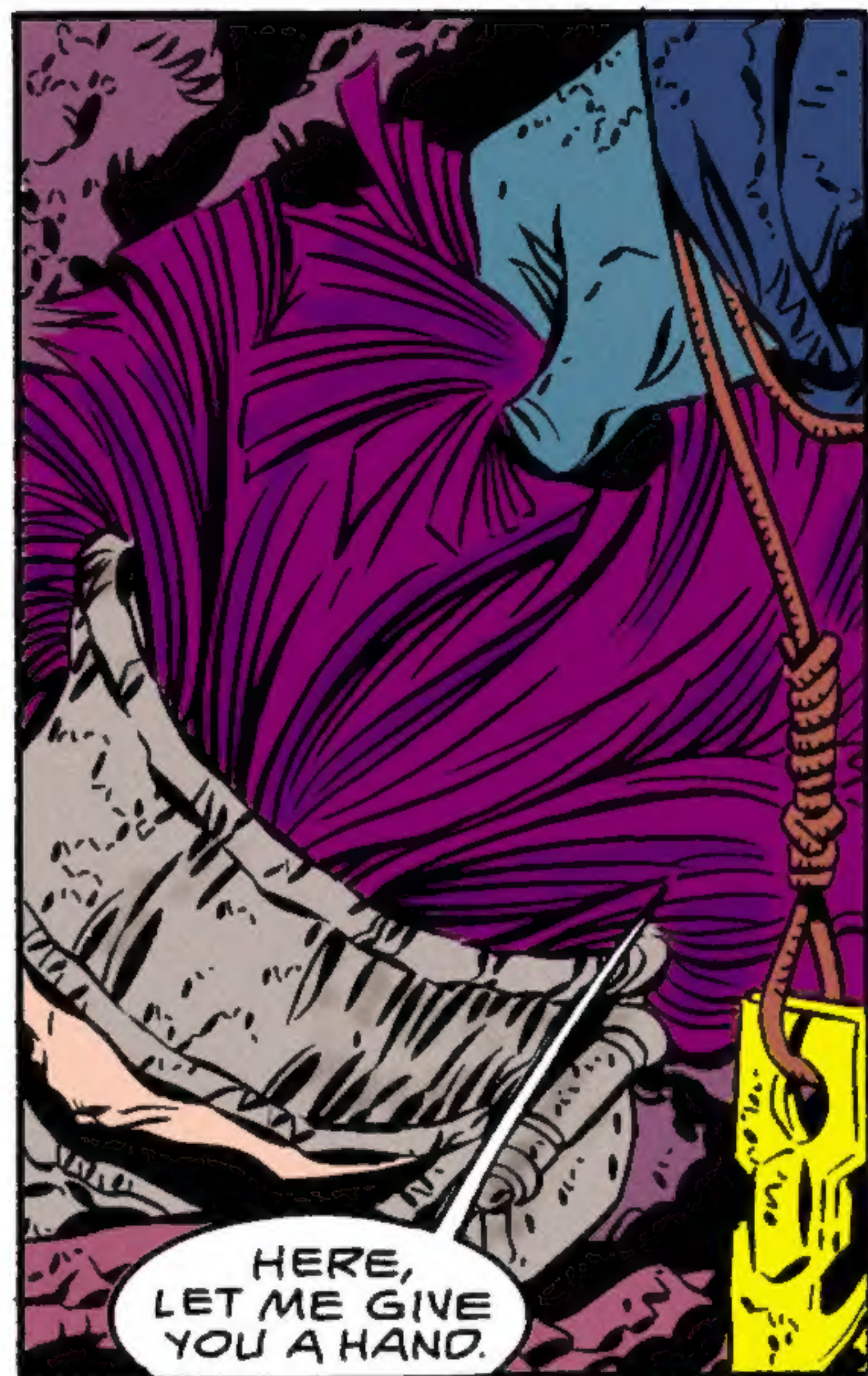
SO, WHERE
YOU BEEN
KEEPING
YERSELF?



SHUCKS, YER
NOT THE OLD BLABBER-
LIPS I USED TO DO MY
16-OUNCE CURLS WITH.

YOU DO
HAVE LIPS,
DON'T YOU?

OH, I SEE.
YOU'RE STUCK
DOWN THERE.



HERE,
LET ME GIVE
YOU A HAND.



FEETAL'S
GIZZ, DUNGH!
YOU LOST
WEIGHT!

I GUESS
THAT'S WHAT
ALL THAT
GOOD LIVIN'LL
DO TO YA!

REALLY
SORRY TO SEE
YA AT SUCH LOOSE
ENDS.



HEY, WAIT A SEC...ARE
YOU EMBARRASSED JUST
BECAUSE SOMEONE KICKED
YER BUTT?

MADE
OFF WITH IT,
TOO.

WELL,
SPEAK UP,
SON!



OKAY, I GOTTA
EASIER QUESTION
FOR YA.

DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE
A GREEN DUDE, A WERE-
WOLF, OR MAYBE TWO
LITTLE BROADS SKITTL
THIS WAY IN THE LAST
COUPLE O' WEEKS?

... I'LL TAKE
THAT AS
A NO.



THIS LOOKS LIKE
THE KINDA MESS I
USUALLY MAKE.

... MUSTA BEEN
THE WEREWOLF. THE
PLACE REEKS OF IT.

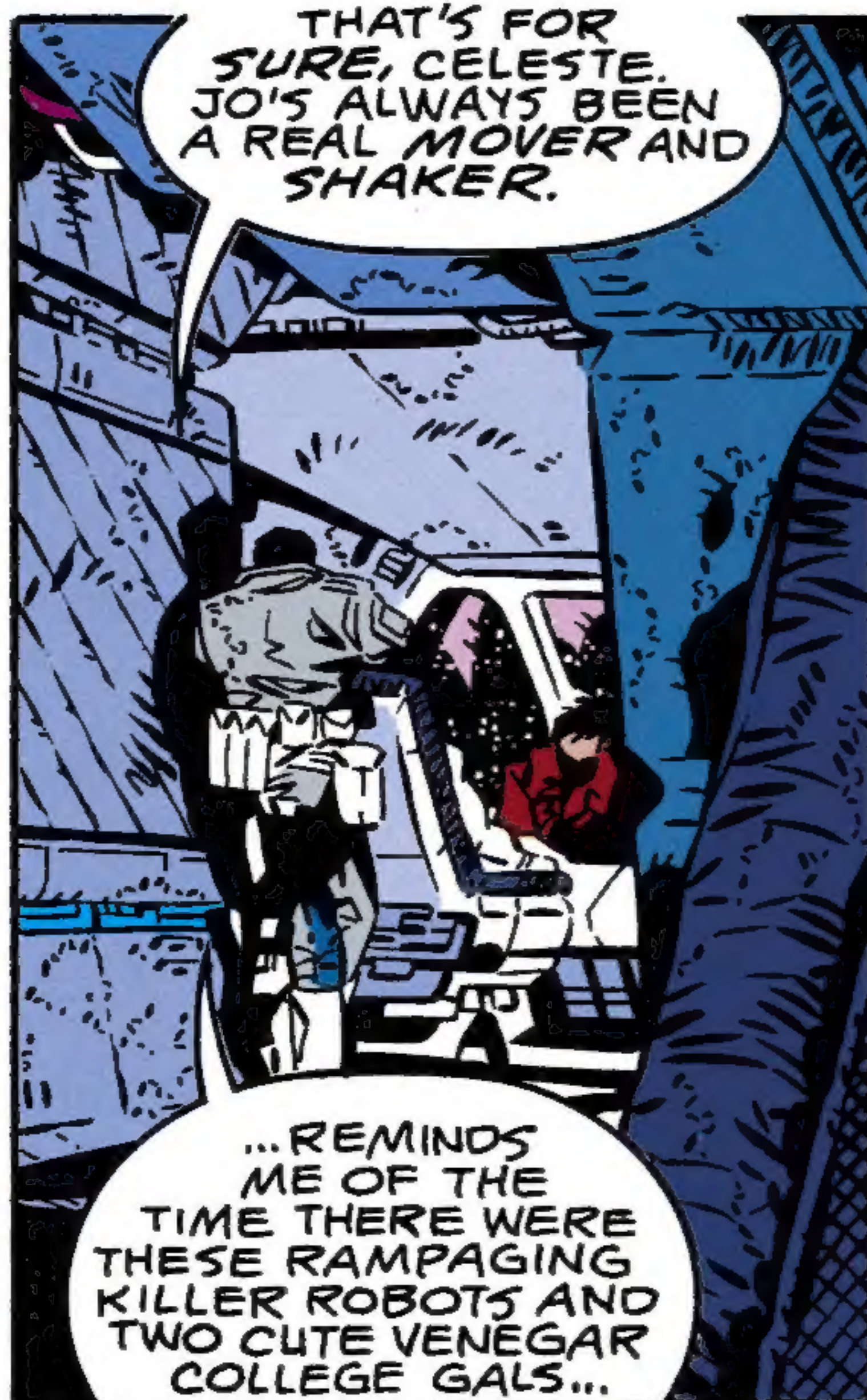
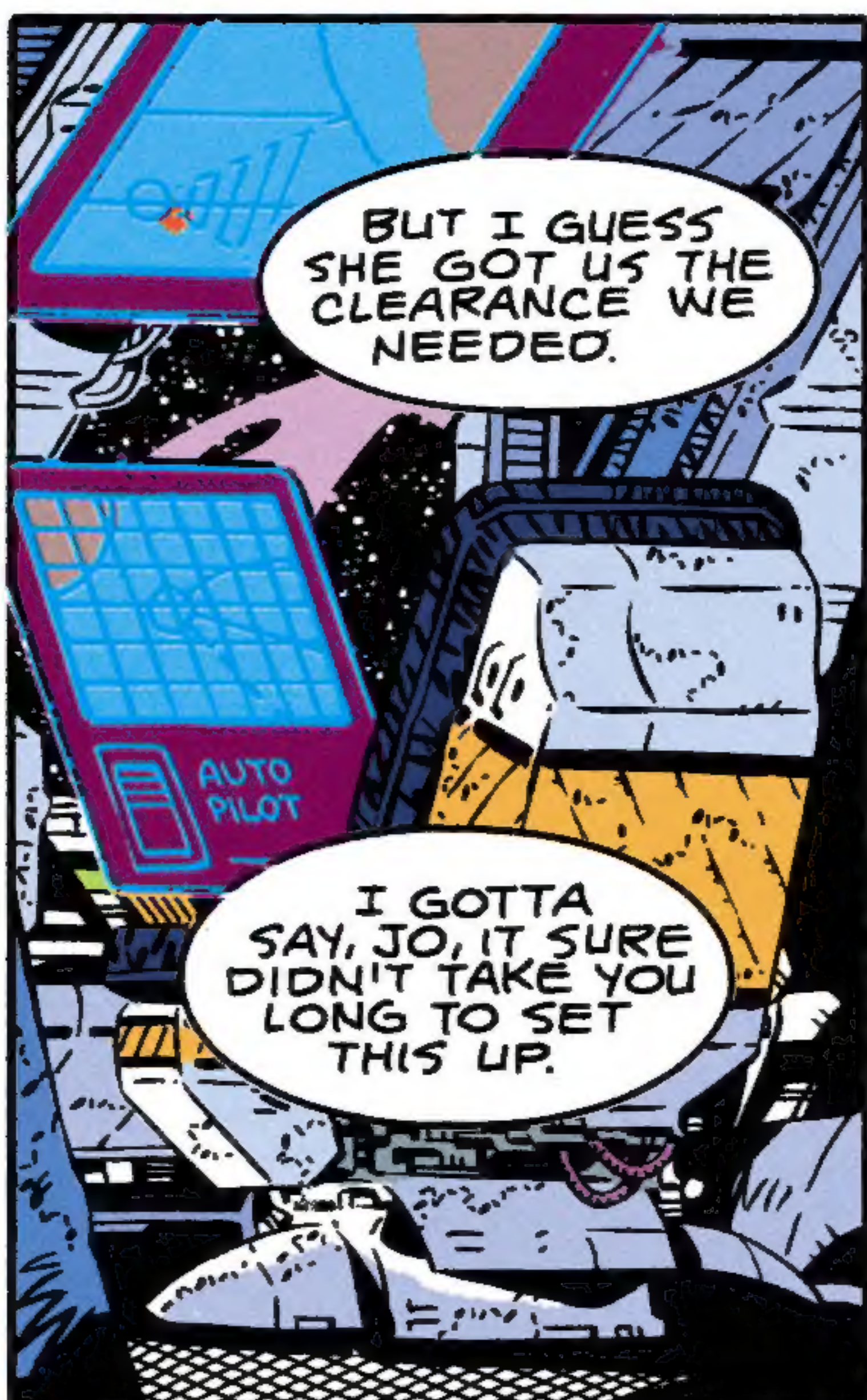
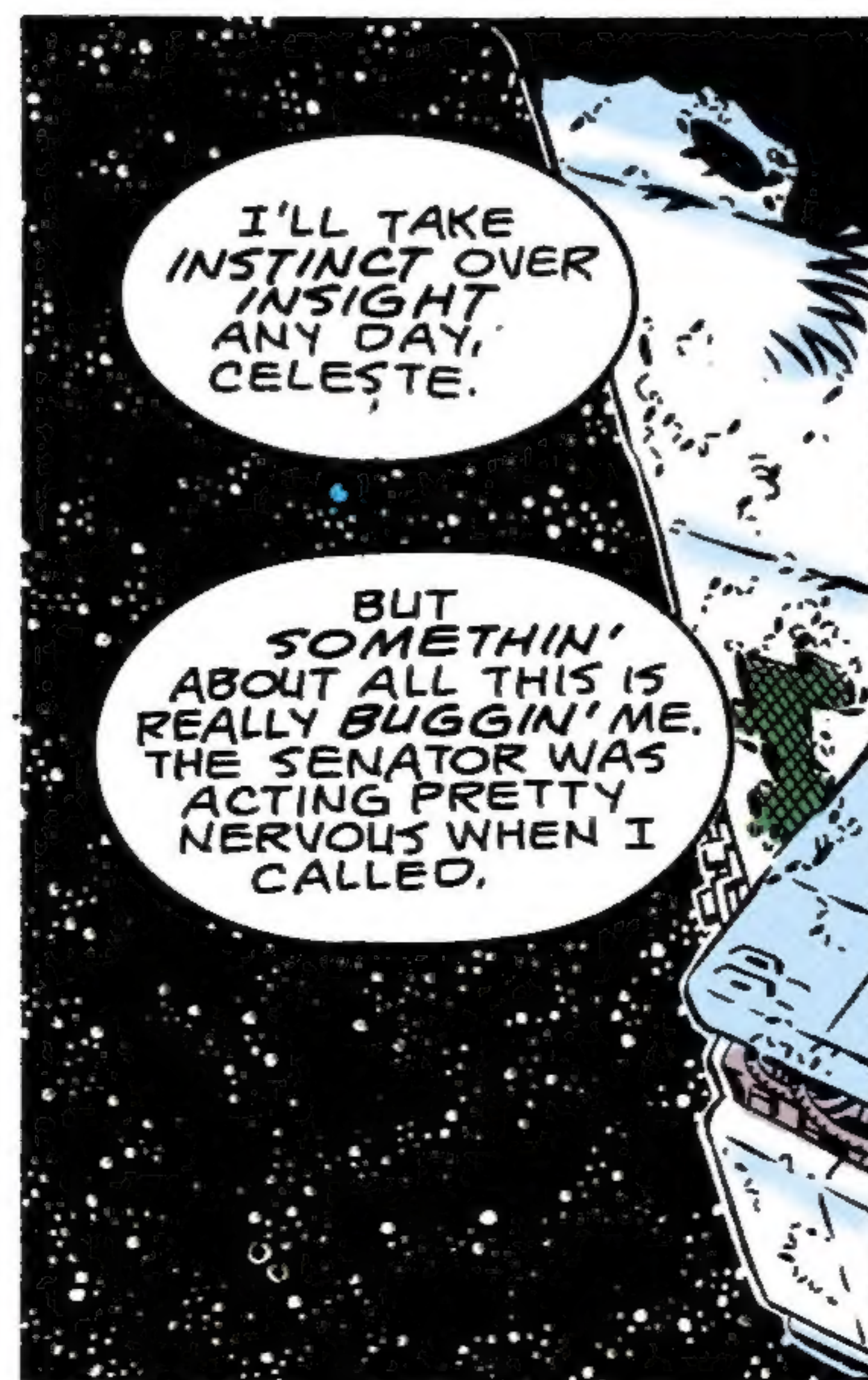


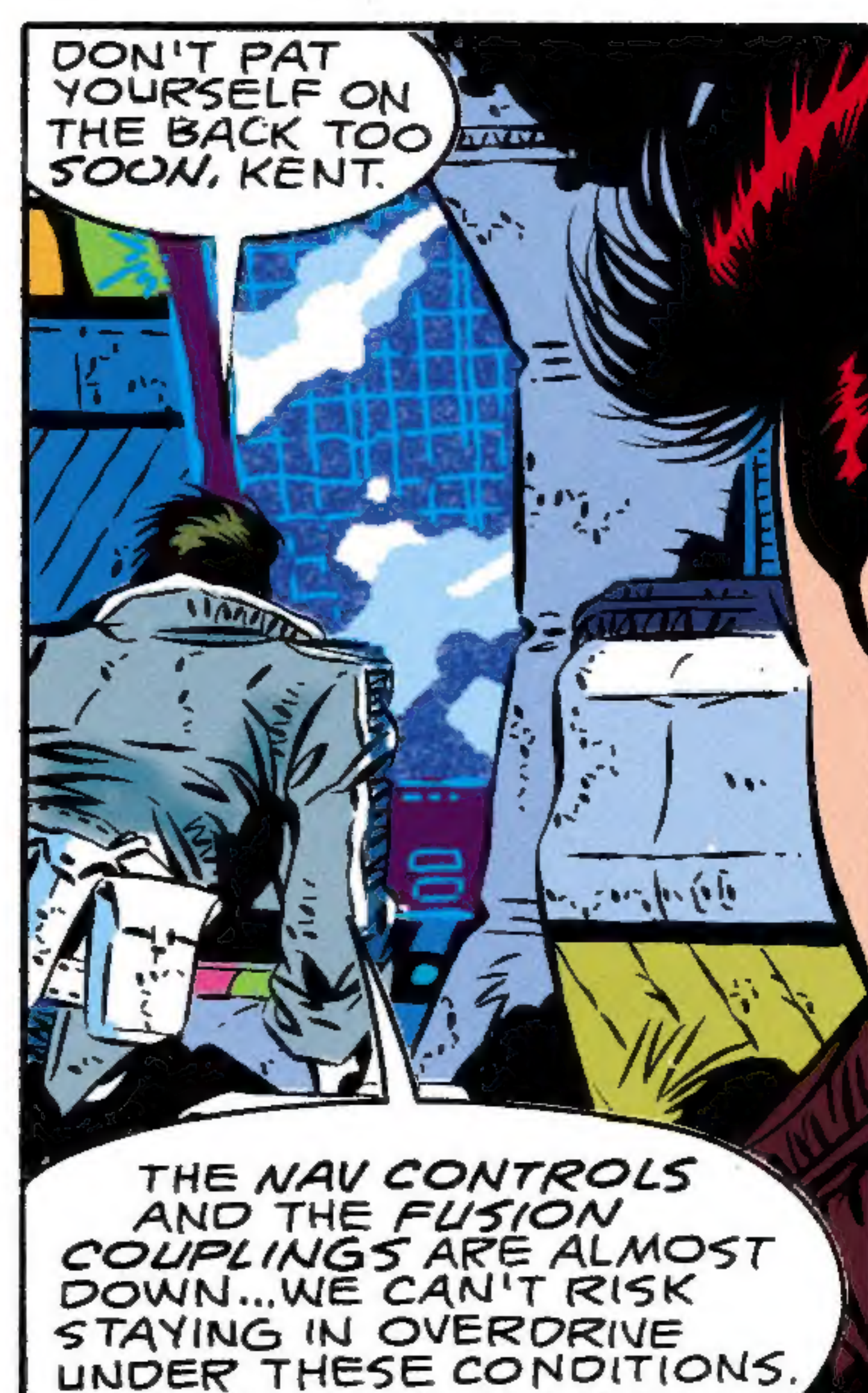
WELL, OLD
BOY, I GOTTA
BLOW.

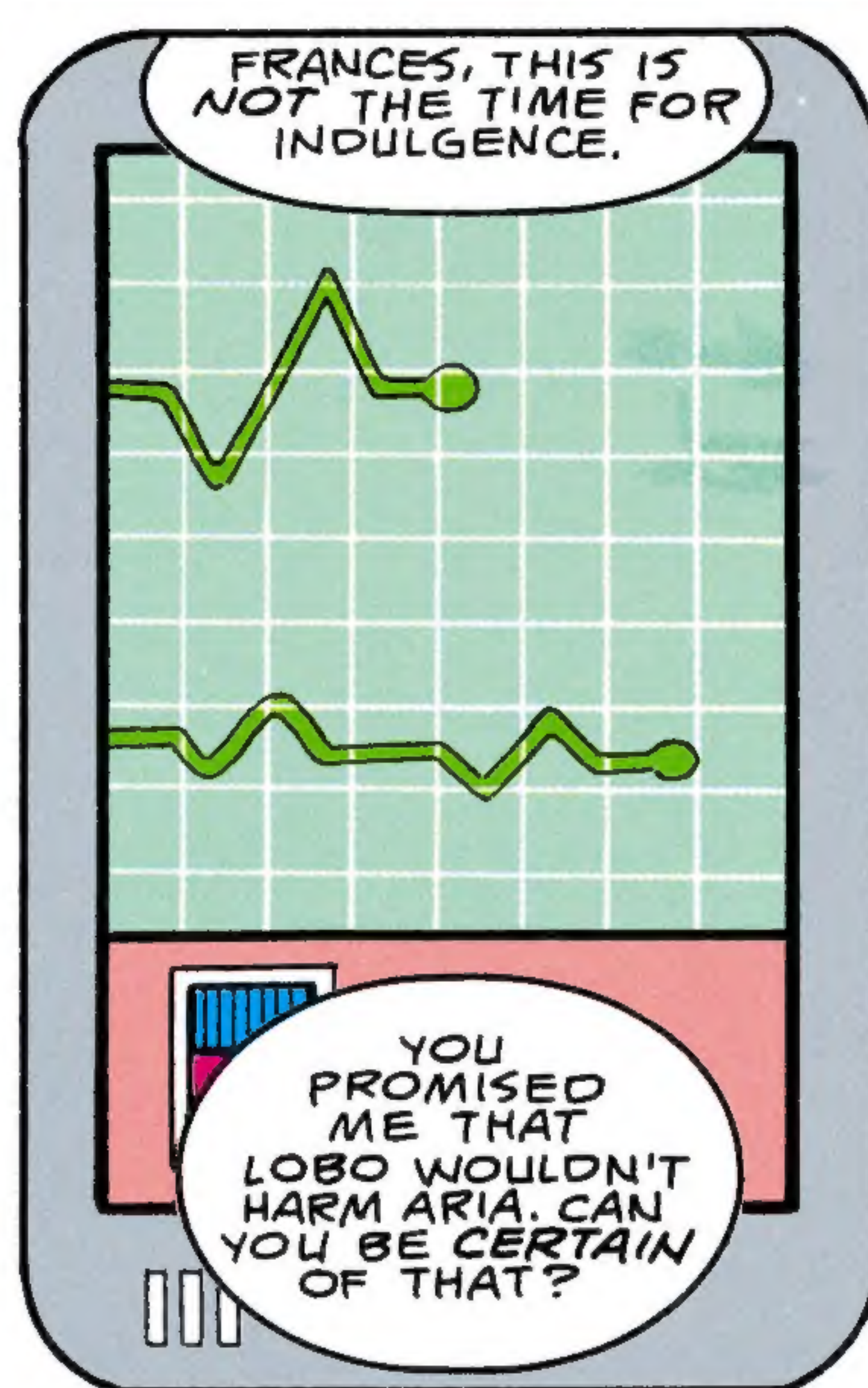
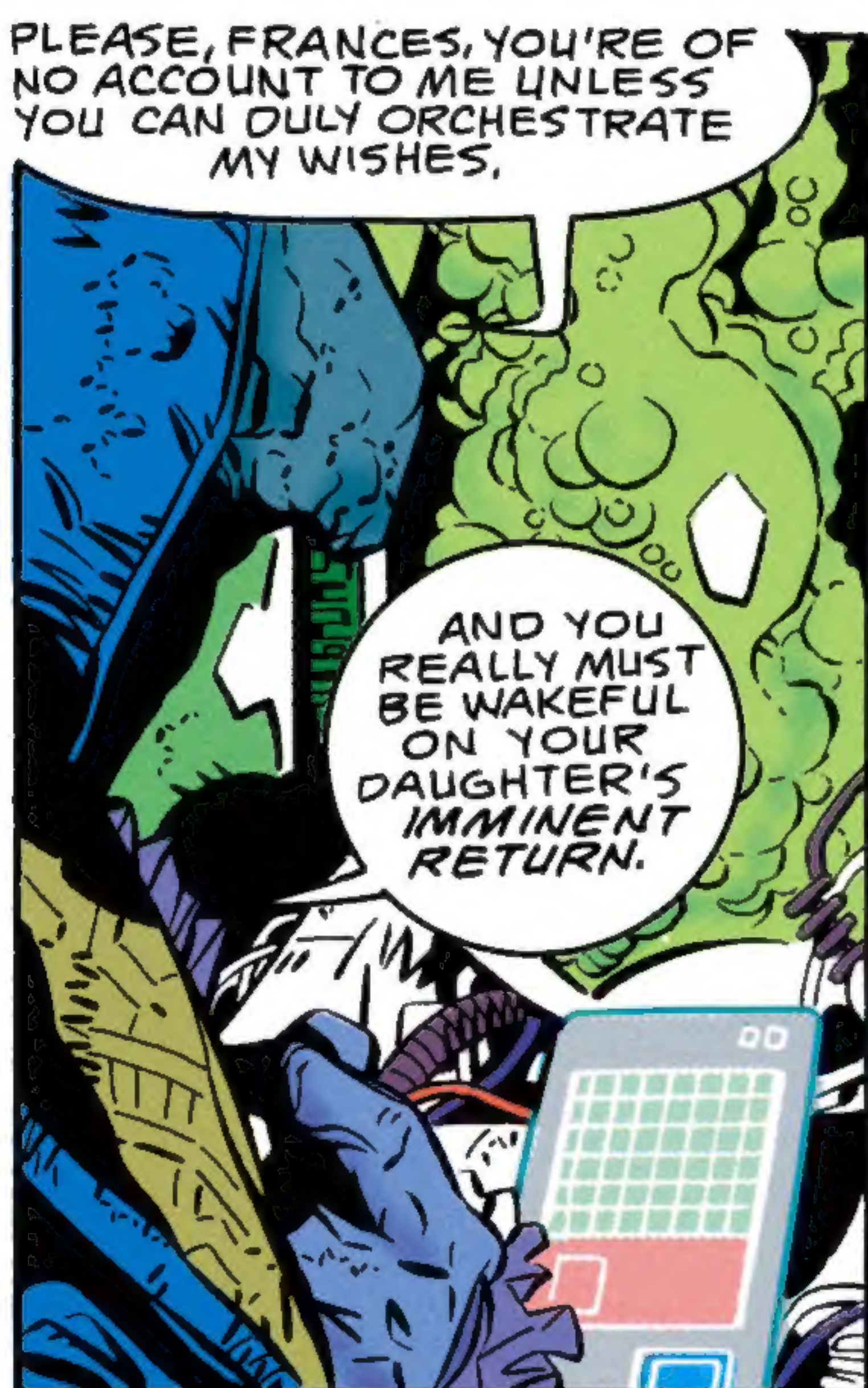
... AND DON'T
SAY IT HASN'T
BEEN FUN.

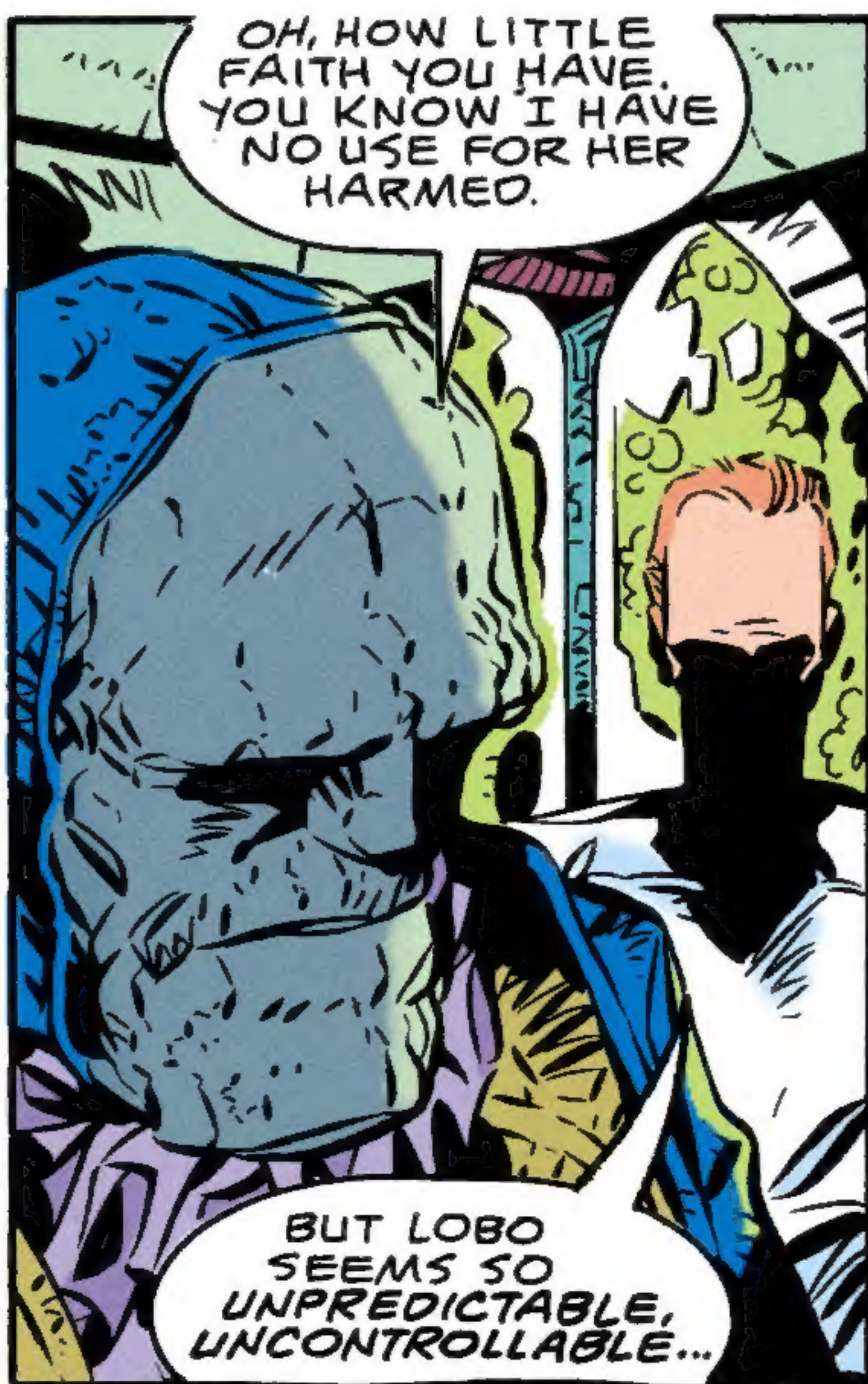


WHAT A
JERK.









OH, HOW LITTLE FAITH YOU HAVE. YOU KNOW I HAVE NO USE FOR HER HARMED.

BUT LOBO SEEMS SO UNPREDICTABLE, UNCONTROLLABLE...



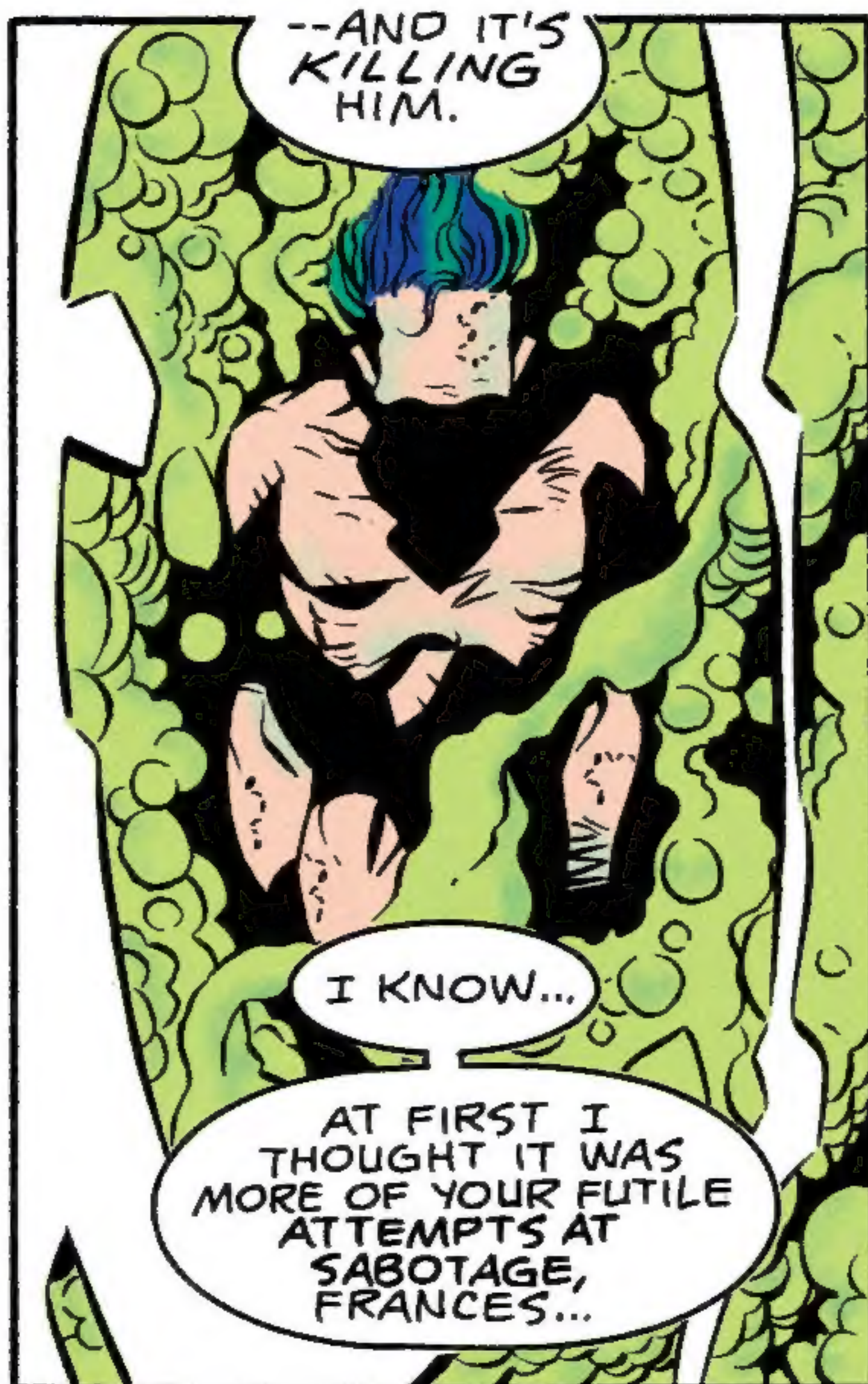
HIS IS A CAPRICIOUS SOUL.

BUT SINCE CODA WASN'T COOPERATING, WE'VE HAD TO RESORT TO MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES.



YET IT WAS THEIR PARA-PSYCHIC "CONNECTION" THAT ALLOWED US THIS FAR.

... AND THAT MAY BE WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY SON. HE MAY HAVE VOLUNTARILY DISCONNECTED HIMSELF FROM ARIA--



--AND IT'S KILLING HIM.

I KNOW...

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS MORE OF YOUR FUTILE ATTEMPTS AT SABOTAGE, FRANCES...



...BUT IT SEEMS THAT, ON SOME LEVEL, THESE CHILDREN KNOW OF THEIR FATE.



I WISH I'D NEVER STARTED THIS.

IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE SEARCHING FOR AN ANSWER.

I WISH THE "GEMINI MATRIX" WAS ONLY A MYTH.



YOU'RE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL BOY, CODA.

I AM SO SORRY.



:-SIGH:- FRANCES, CAN WE PLEASE DISCONTINUE THE EMOTIONAL CALISTHENICS. WE'VE BOTH PAID QUITE DEARLY FOR ALL THIS.

AND THE TIME IS CERTAINLY NOT PROPER TO CAST IT ALL ASIDE.



COME, FRANCES. GET SOME SLEEP.



ZUUN...

...I'VE REALLY, REALLY TRIED TO BE PATIENT...

BUT YOU GUYS ARE ONE TIGHT-LIPPED GROUP.

Y'KNOW, IT DOESN'T REALLY PAY TO BE THE QUIET TYPE.



...COULD GET YOU IN A MESS OF TROUBLE.

BRINKE POINT POLICE STATION



...COULD GET YOU DEAD.



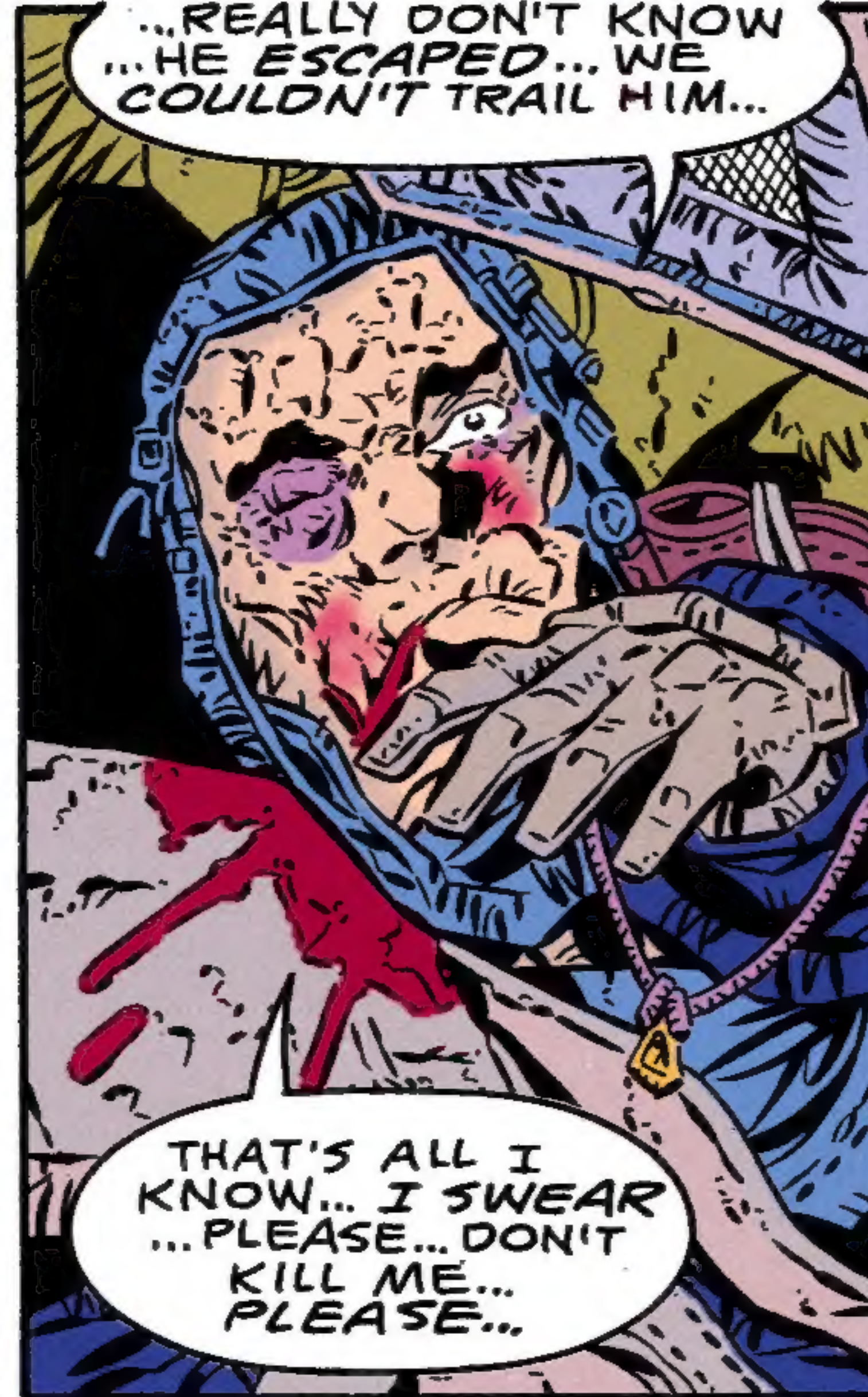
YO, TOILET-FACE! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

...I'M GONNA ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME... THEN, WHETHER YOU ANSWER ME OR NOT...



...I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

NOW... ABOUT THAT GREEN-FACED GEEK... I BEEN TOLD HE MIGHT LEAD ME TO A CERTAIN FRAIL.



...REALLY DON'T KNOW ...HE ESCAPED... WE COULDN'T TRAIL HIM...

THAT'S ALL I KNOW... I SWEAR ...PLEASE... DON'T KILL ME... PLEASE...



AWW, I WAS JUST KIDDIN'. DO I LOOK LIKE THE MURDERIN' TYPE?



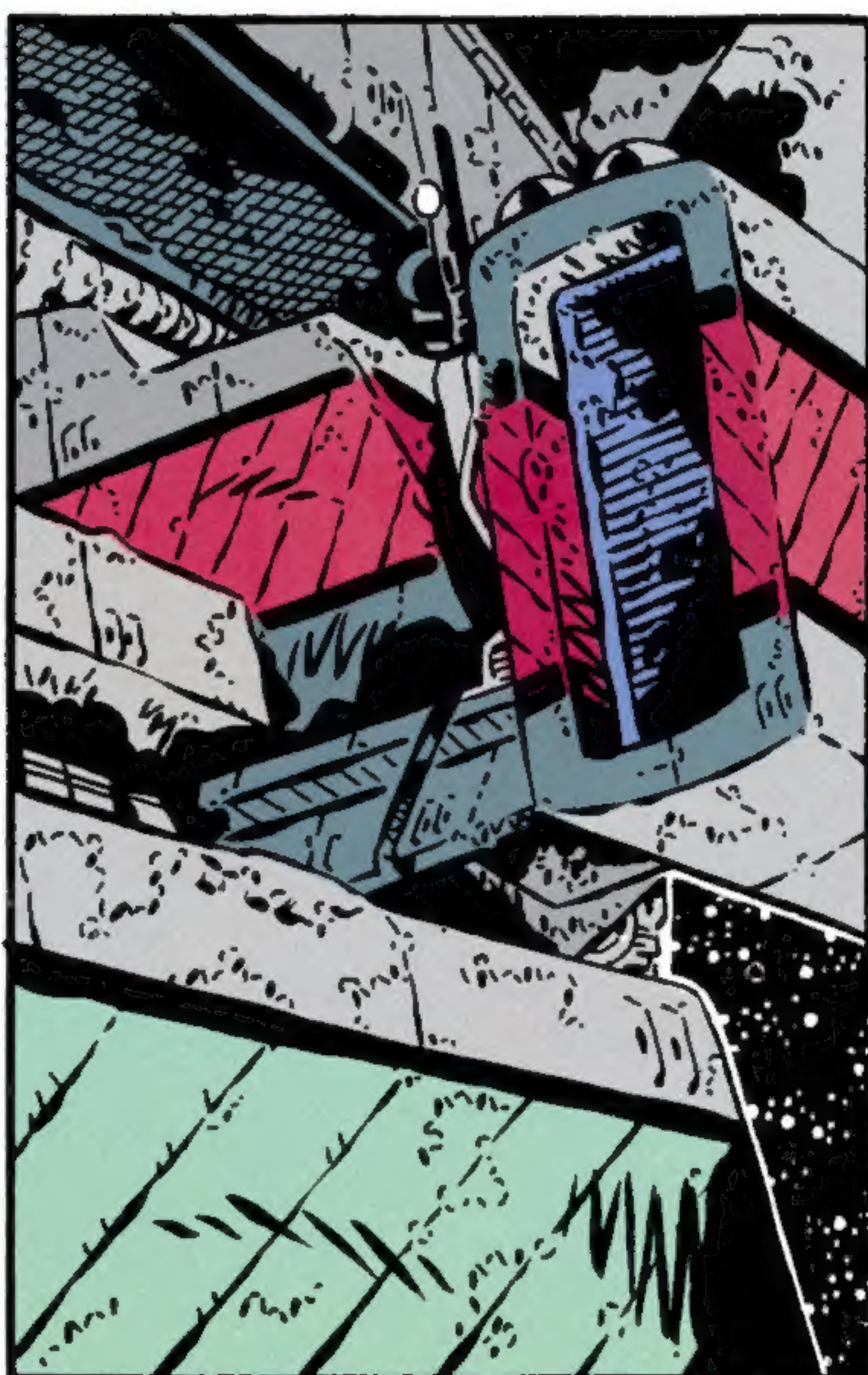
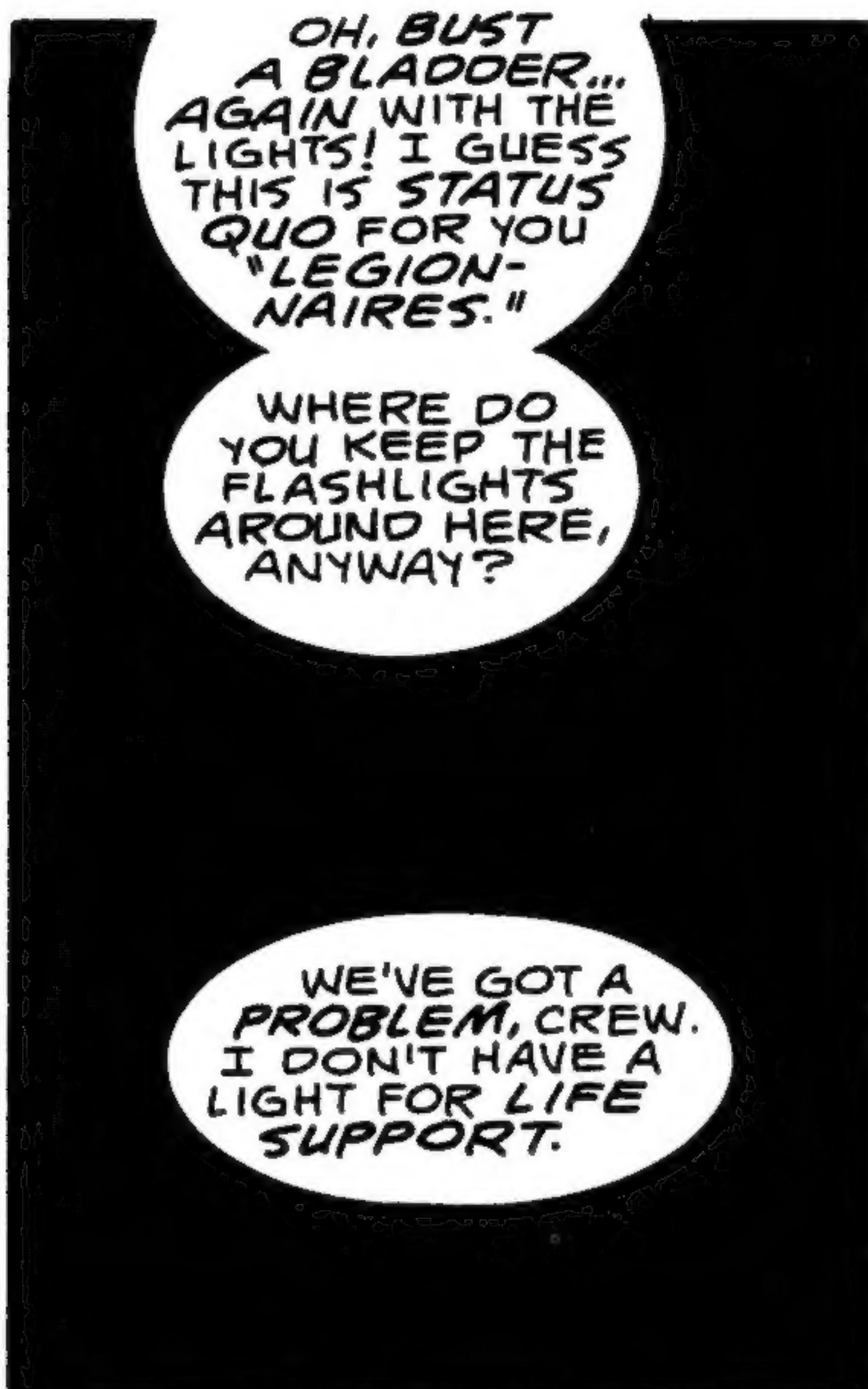
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE STILL LOOKIN' KINDA TENSE. HOPE IT WASN'T SOMETHING I SAID.

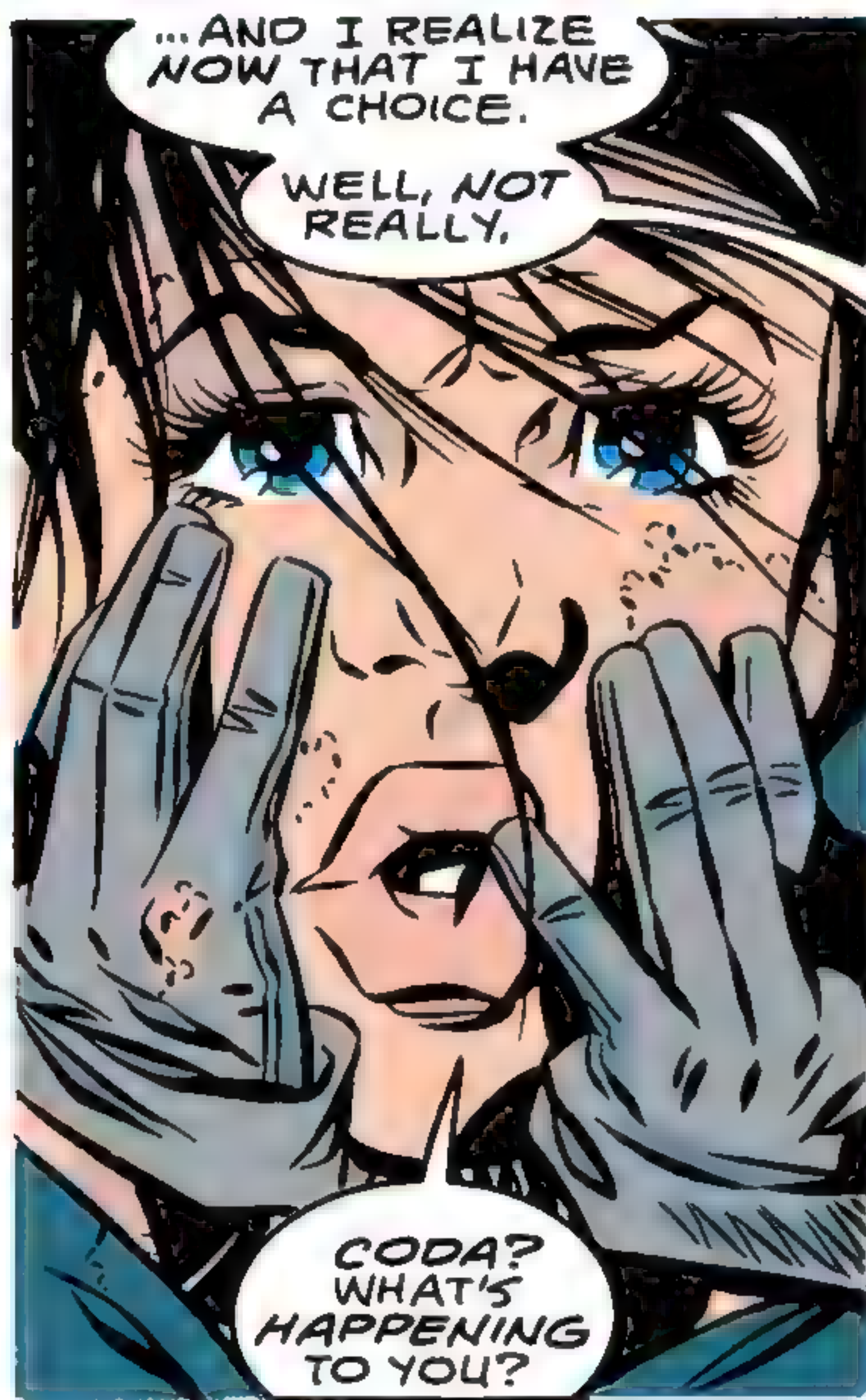
HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE NECK RUB.

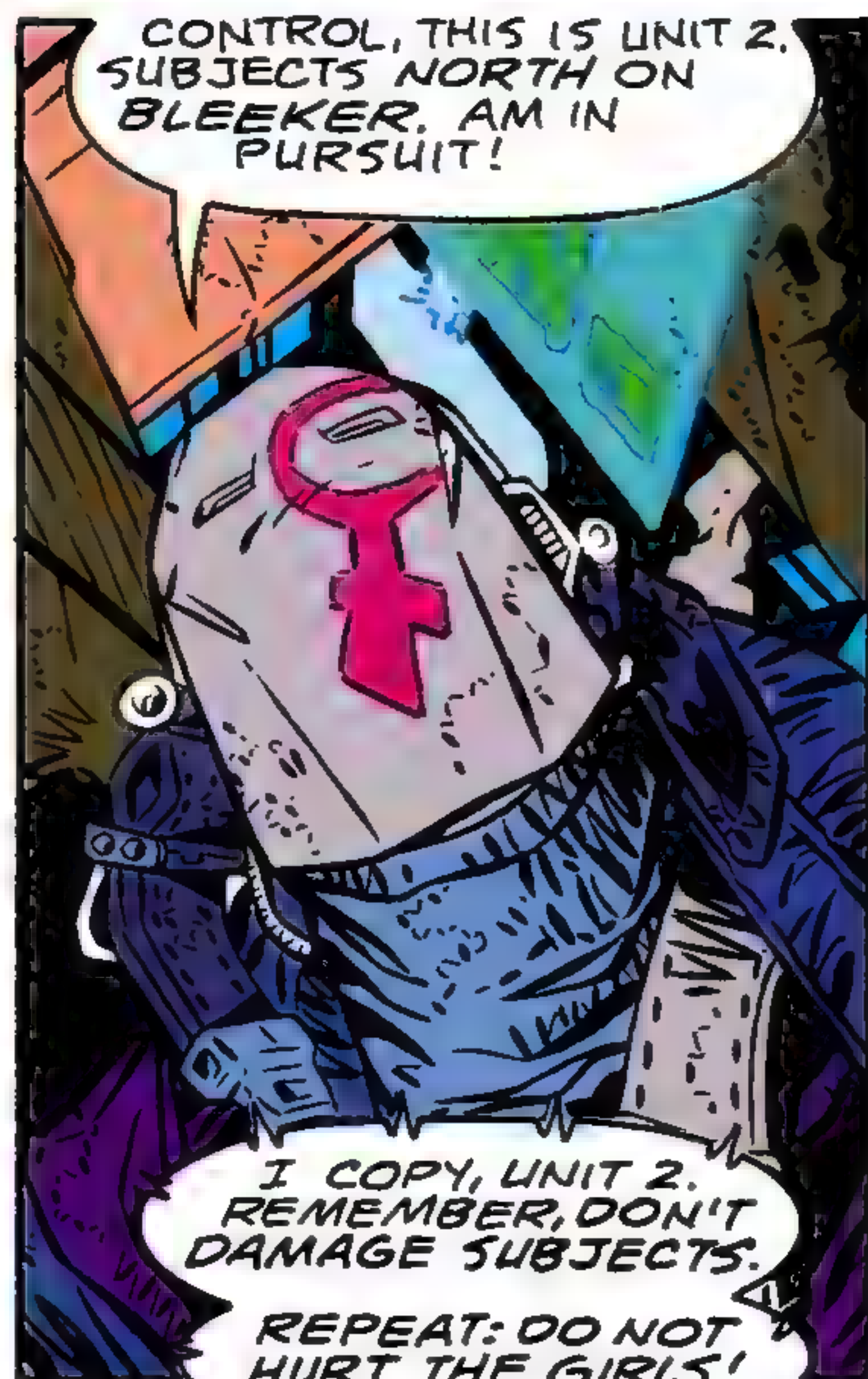
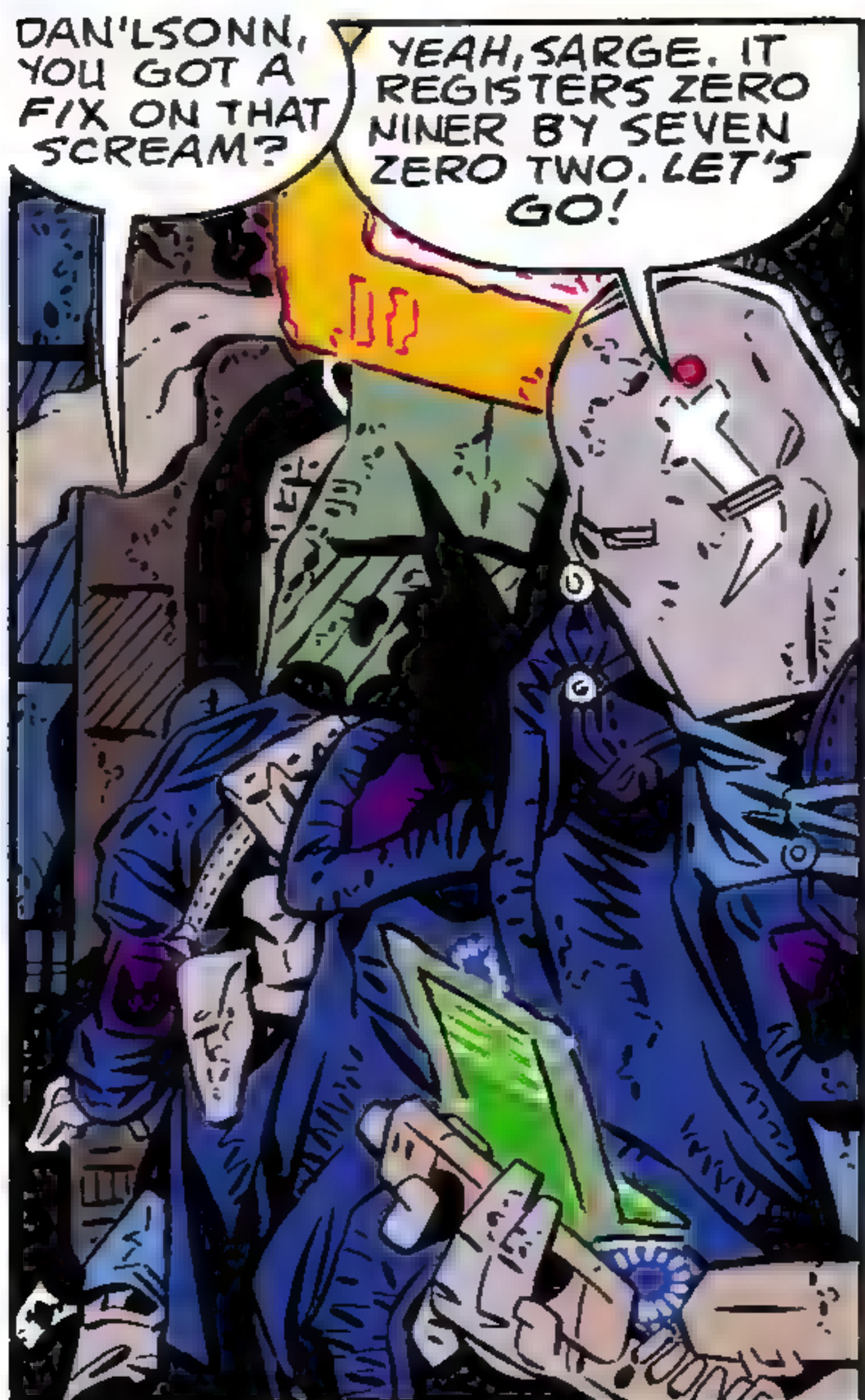


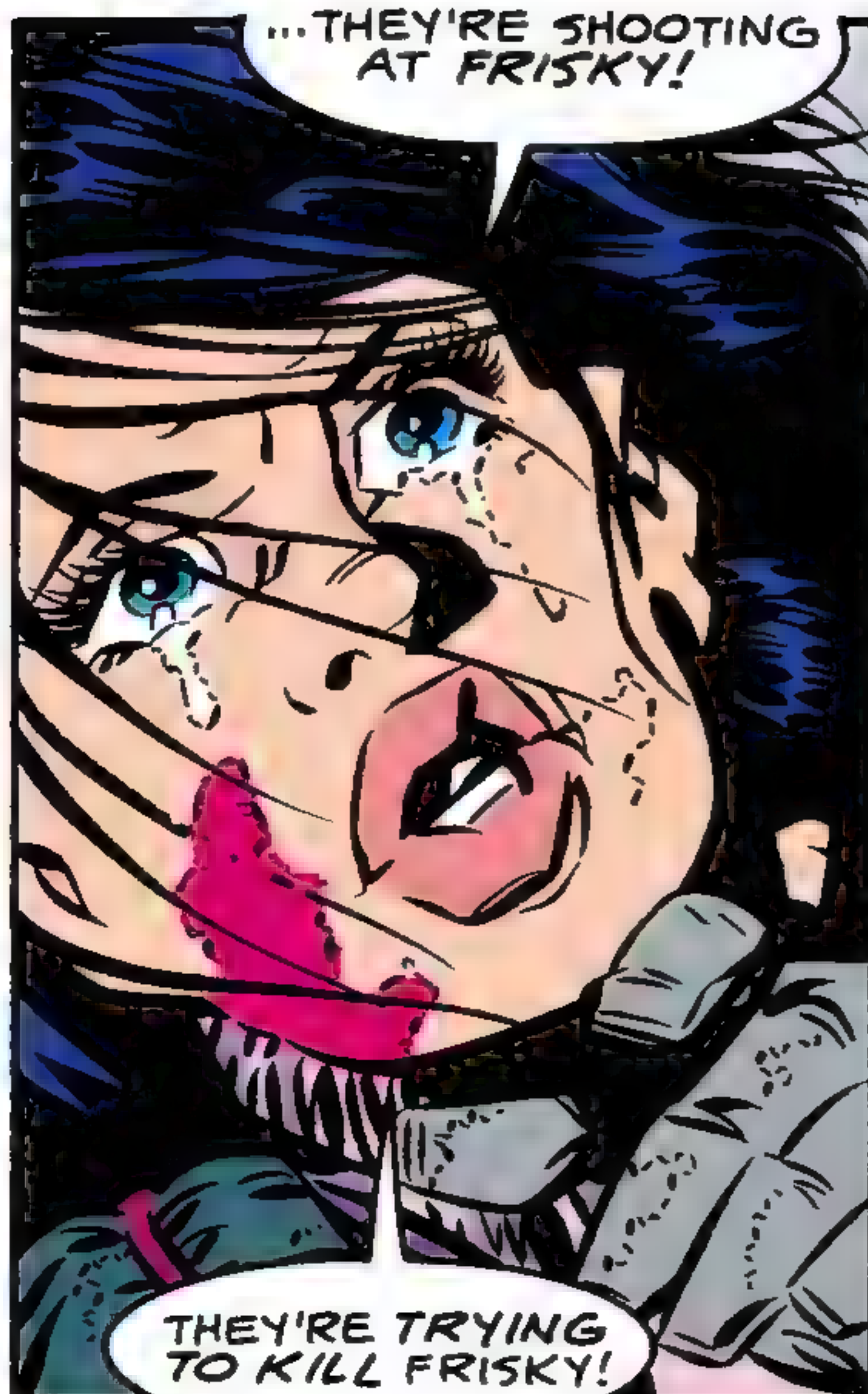
...NO, PLEASE, DON'T--

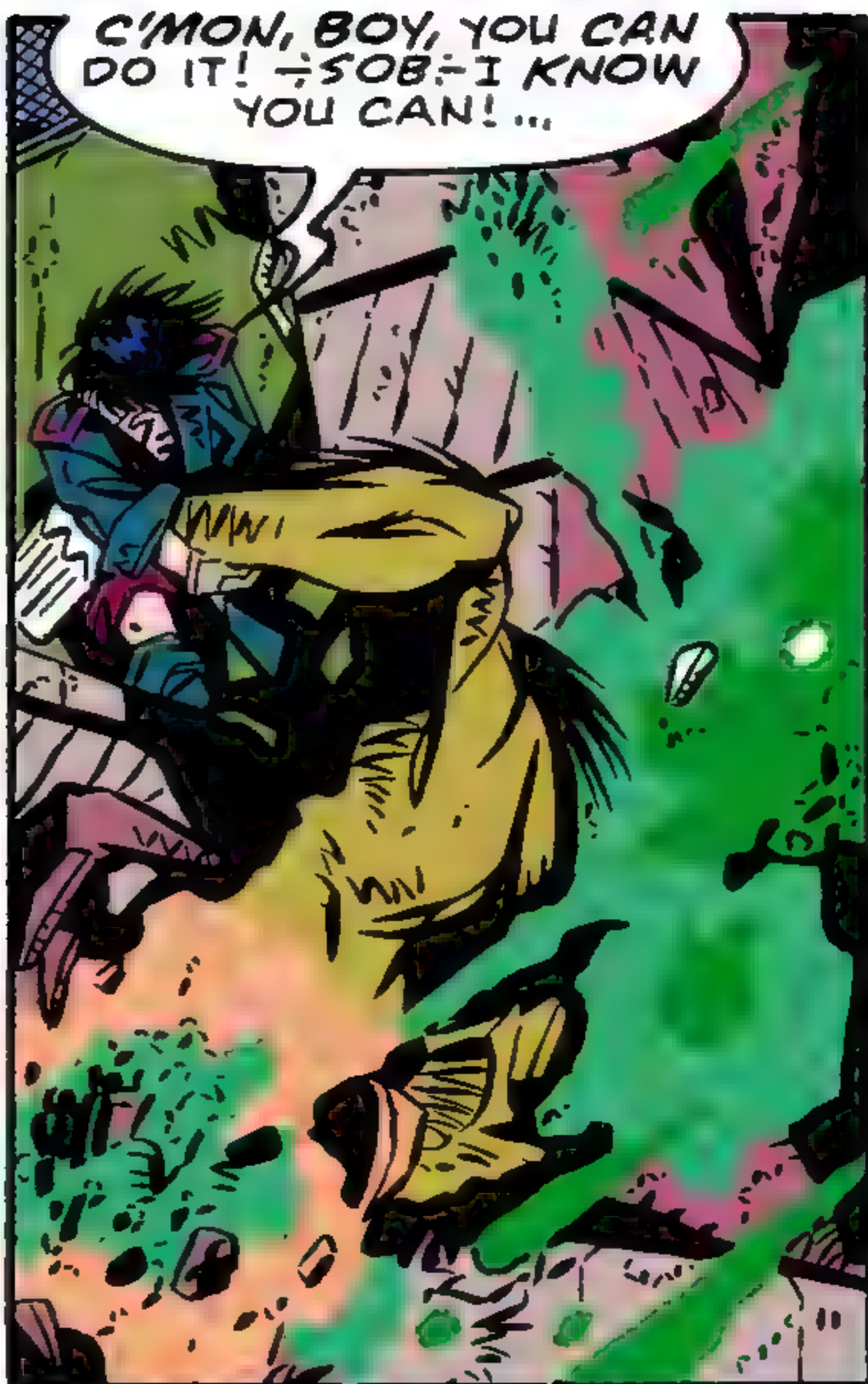
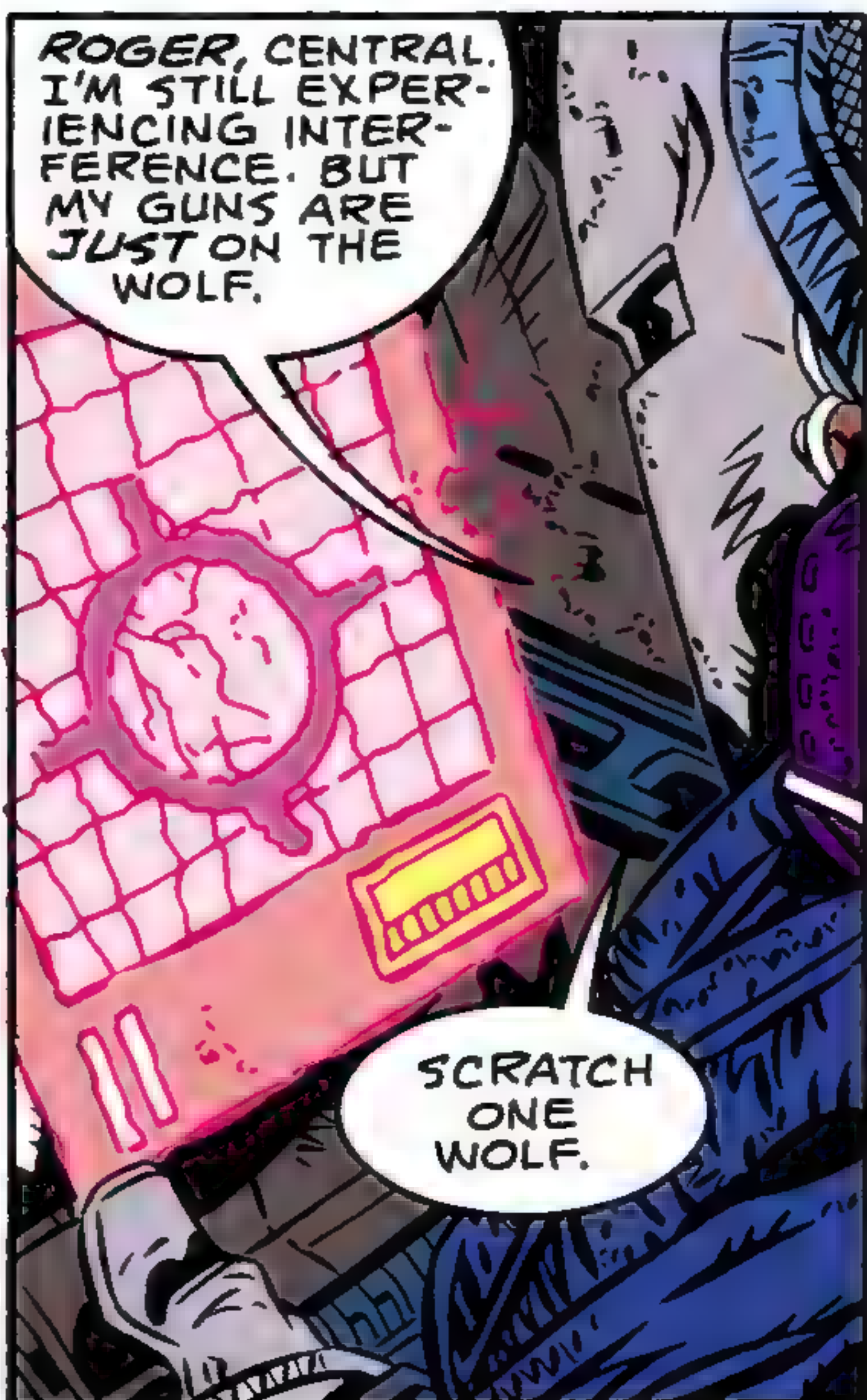
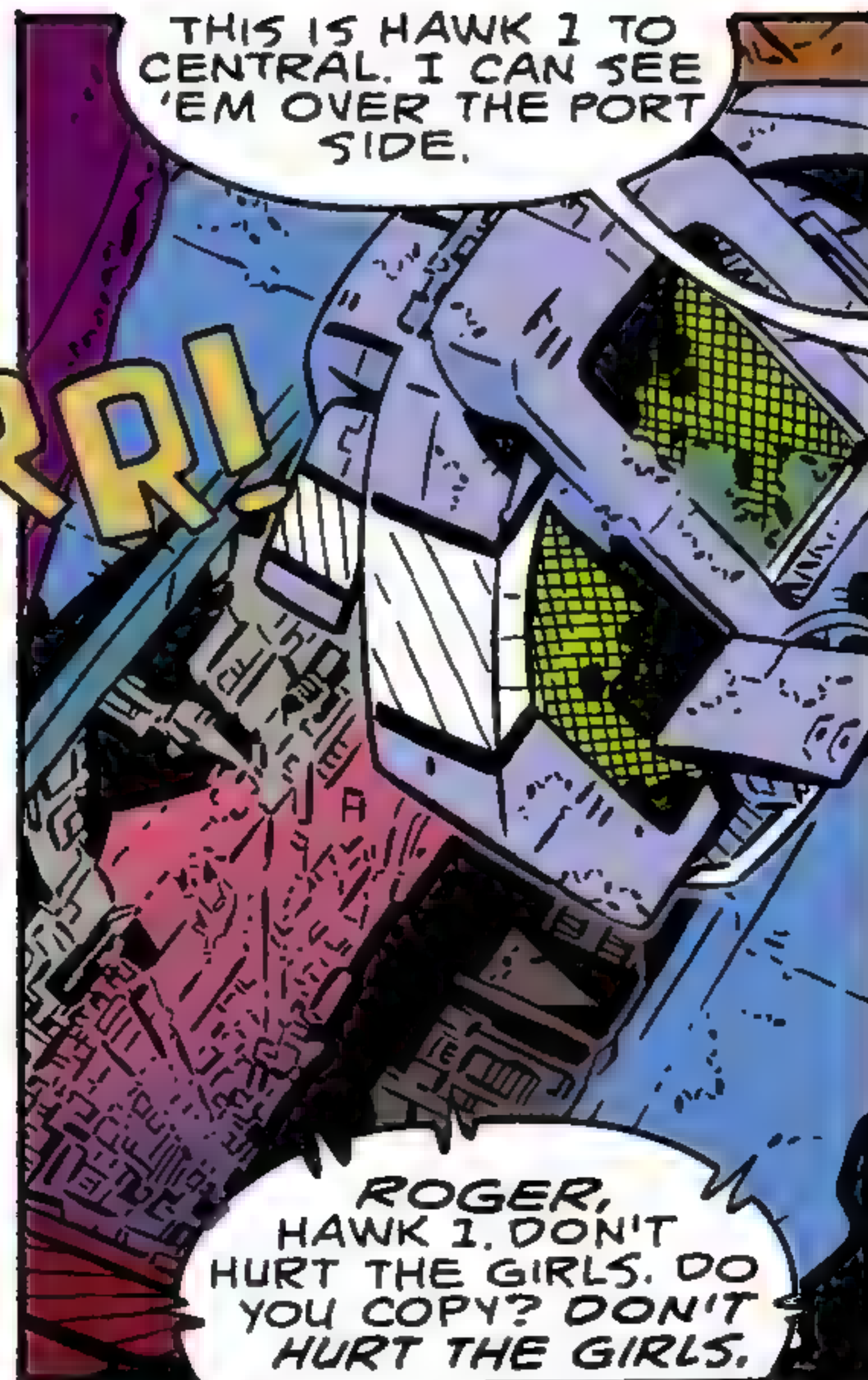
OOPS, Y'KNOW, YA TRY TO DO A GUY A FAVOR...

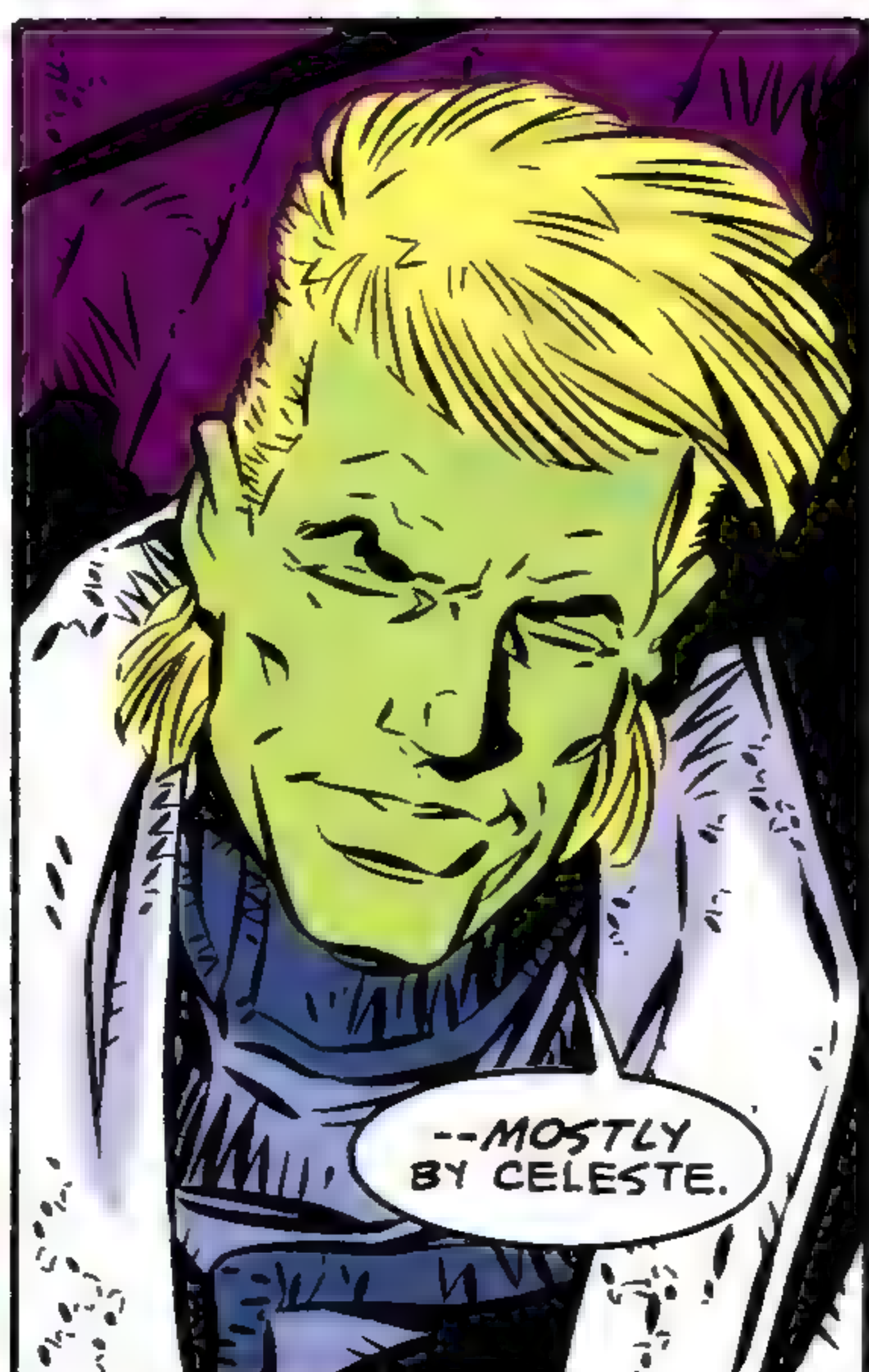
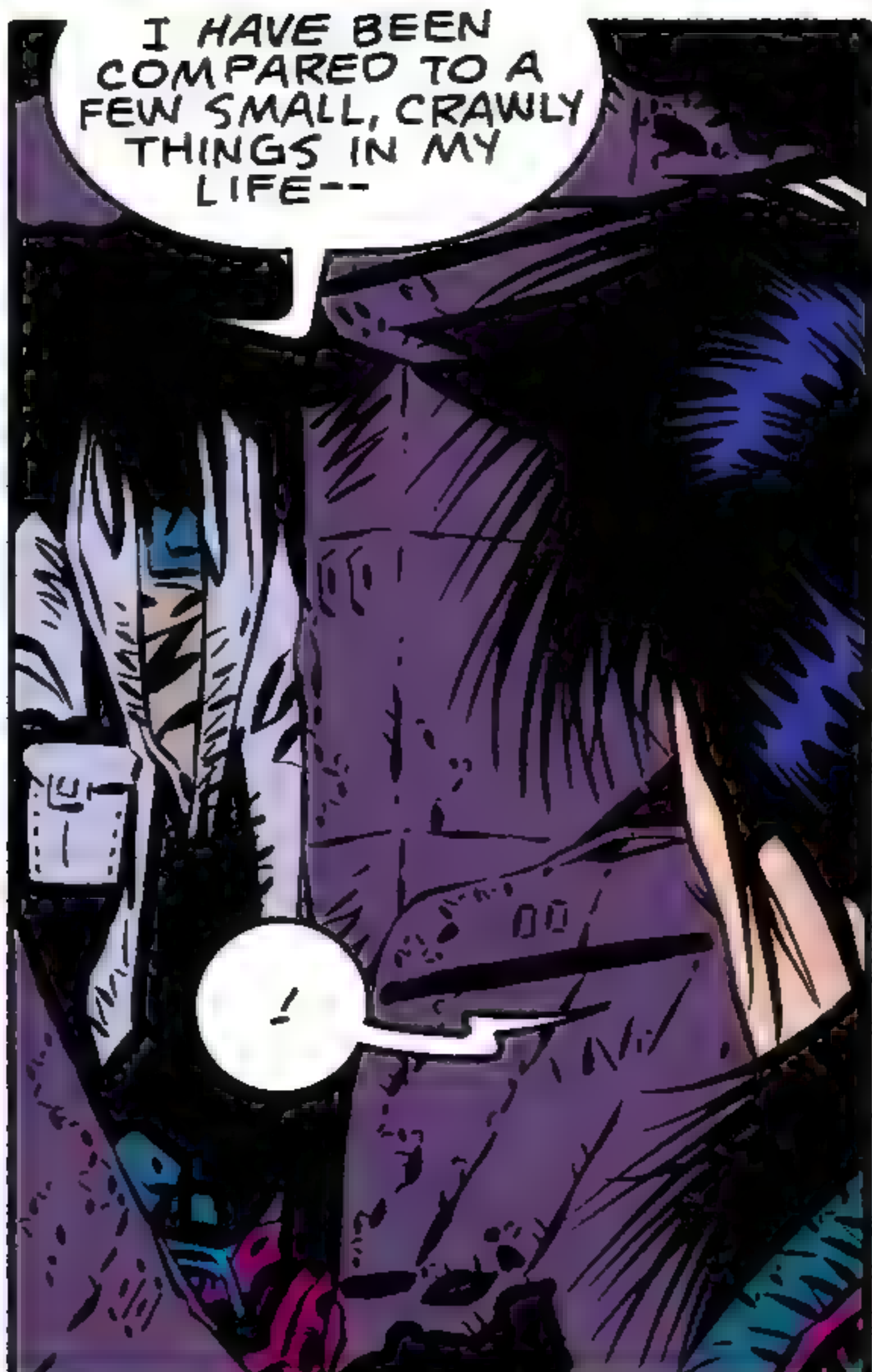
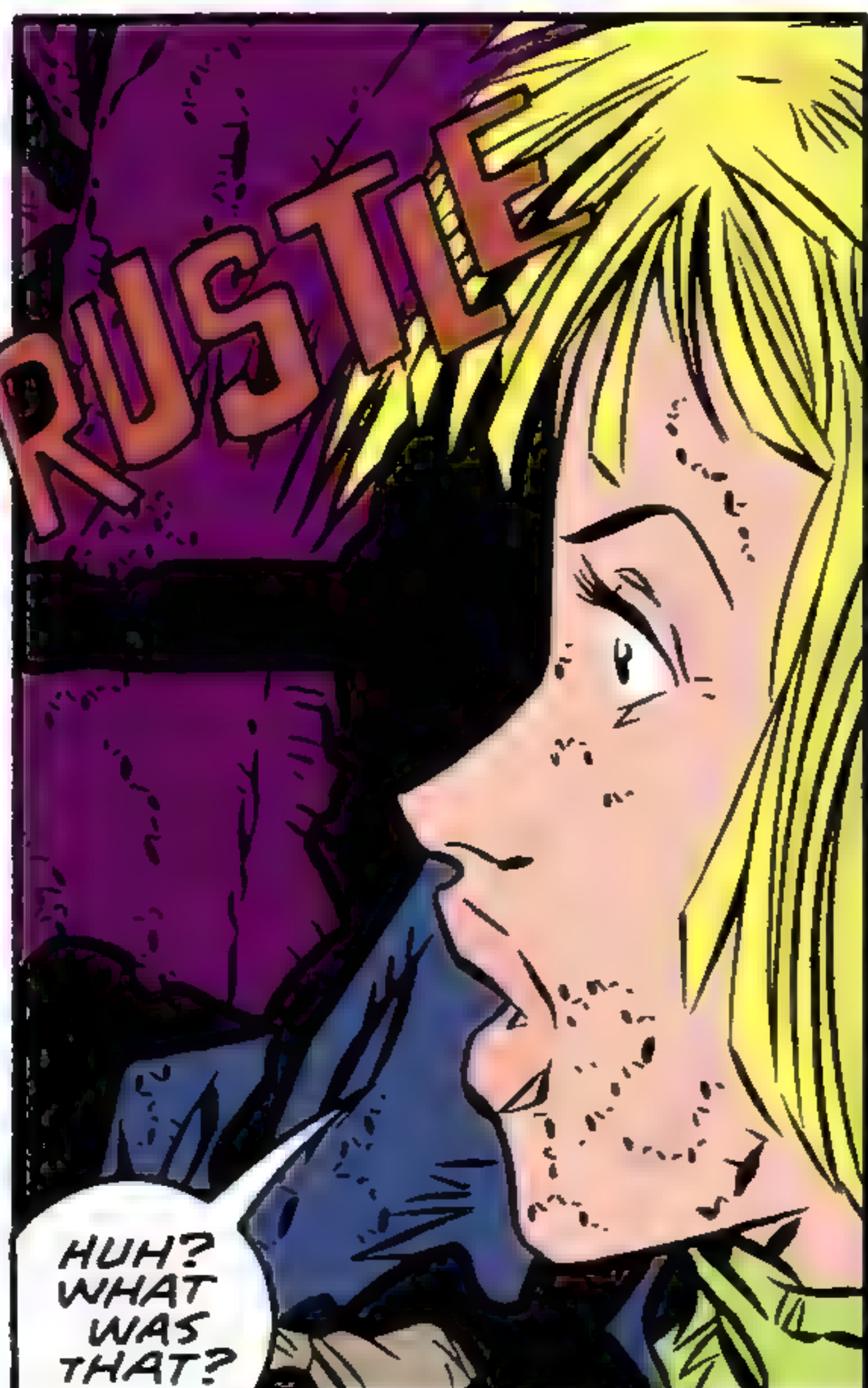
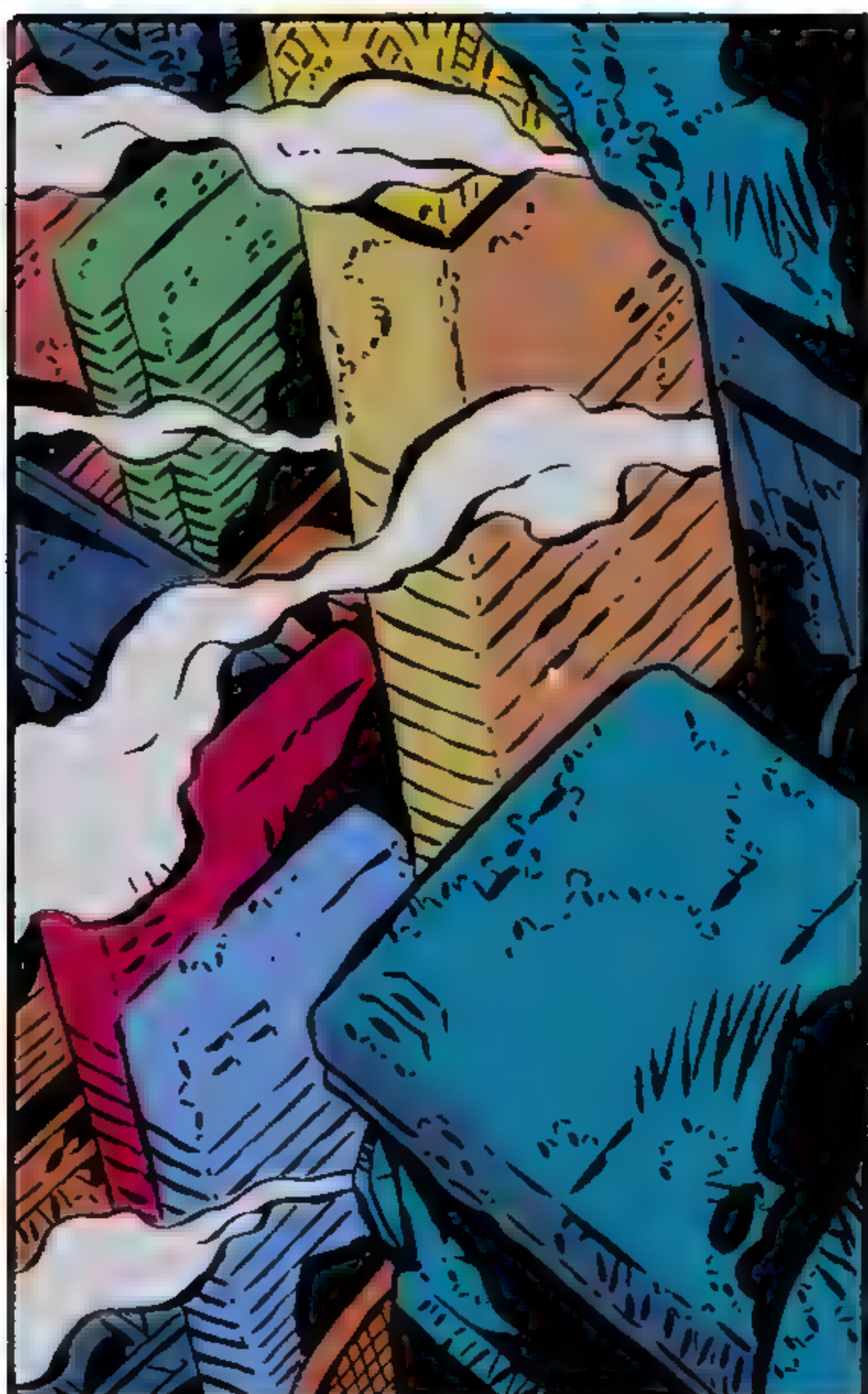
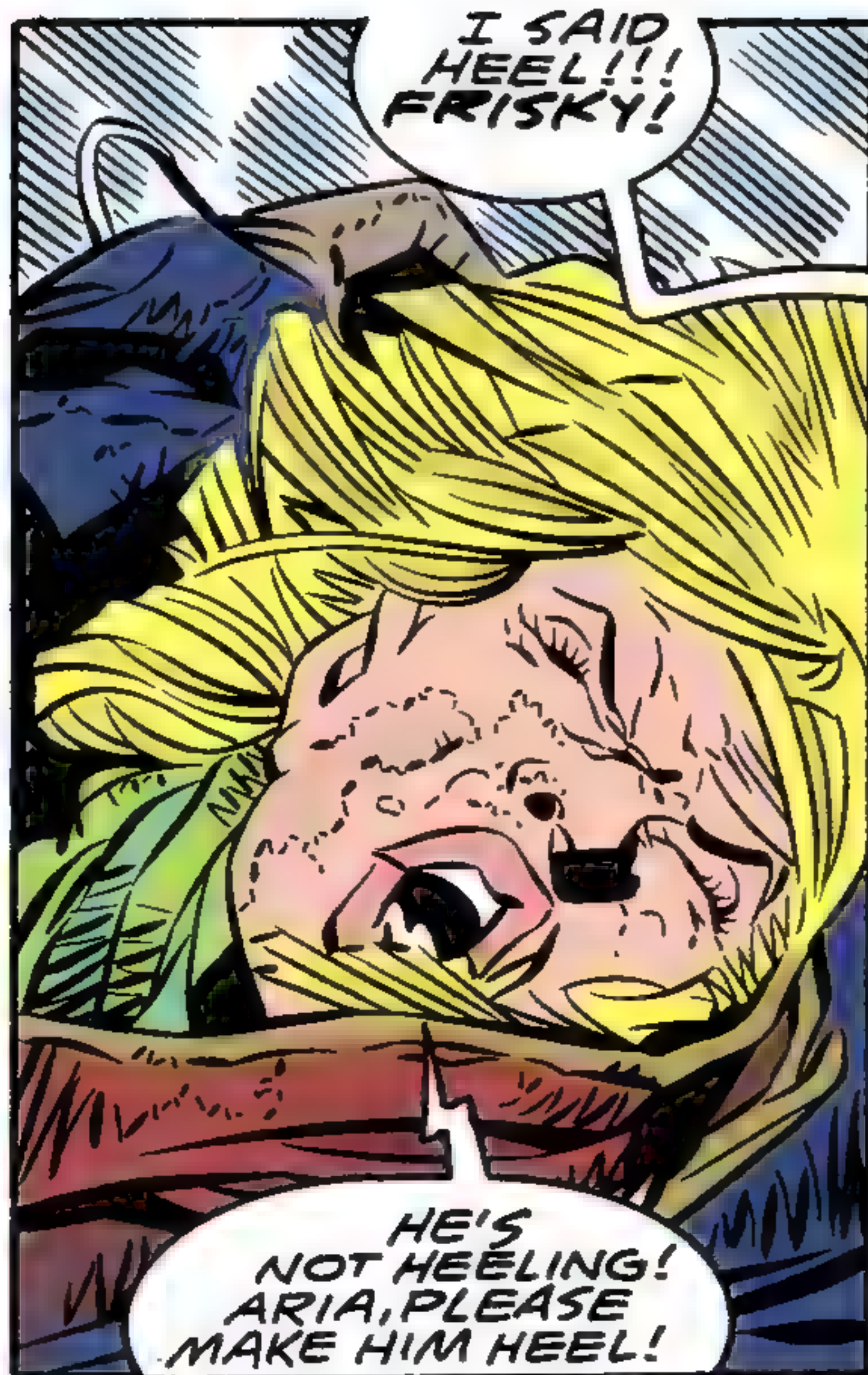
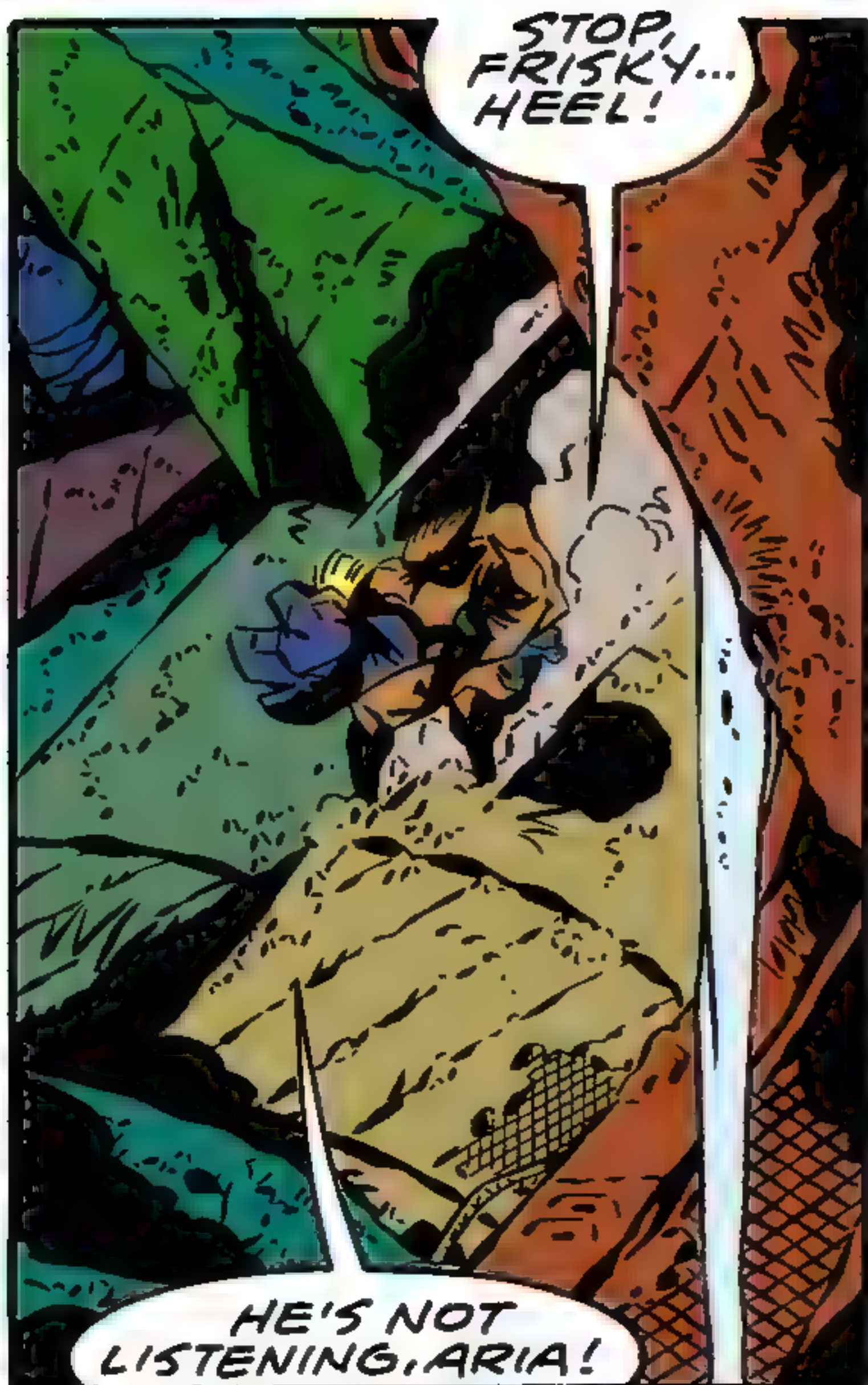


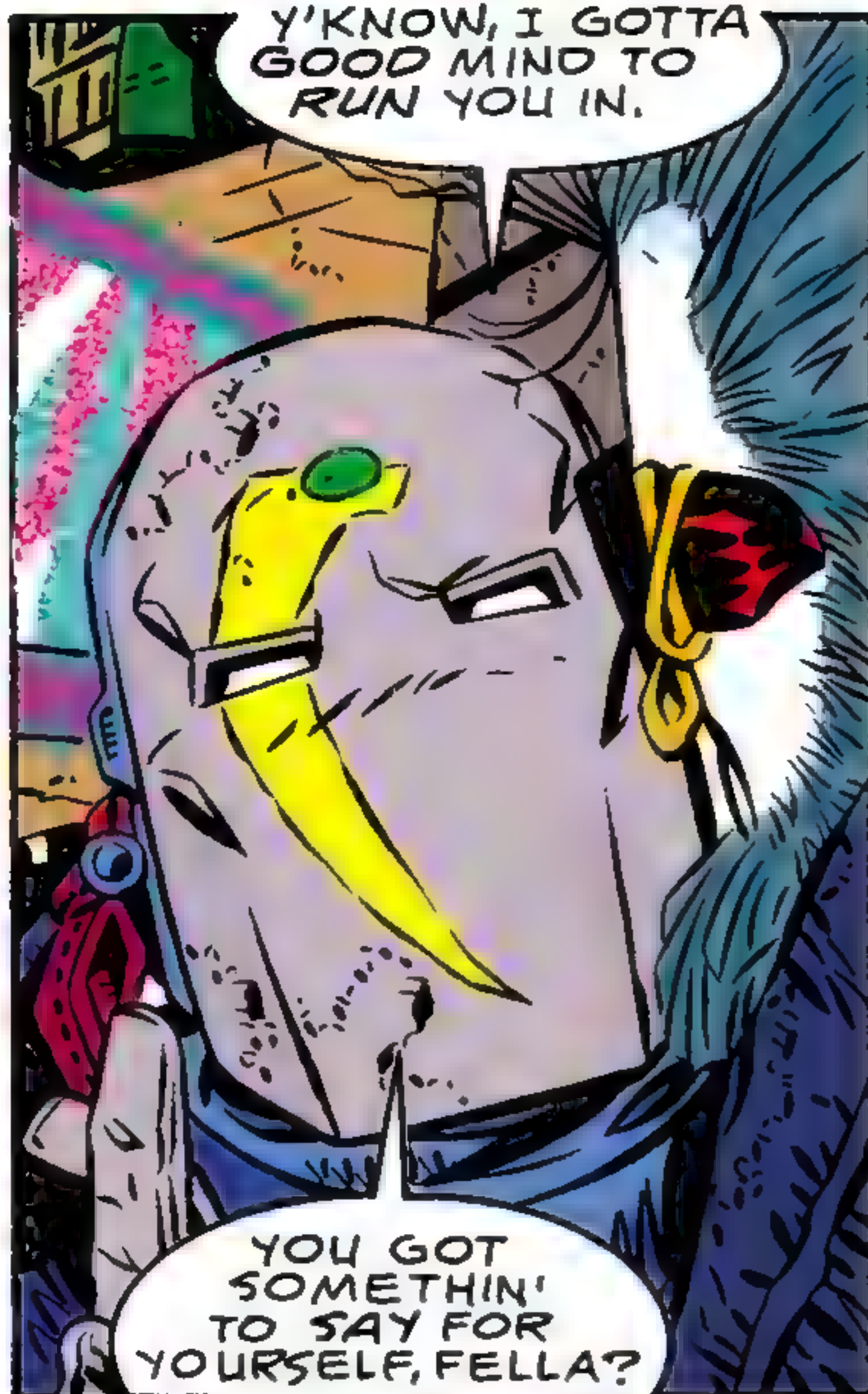
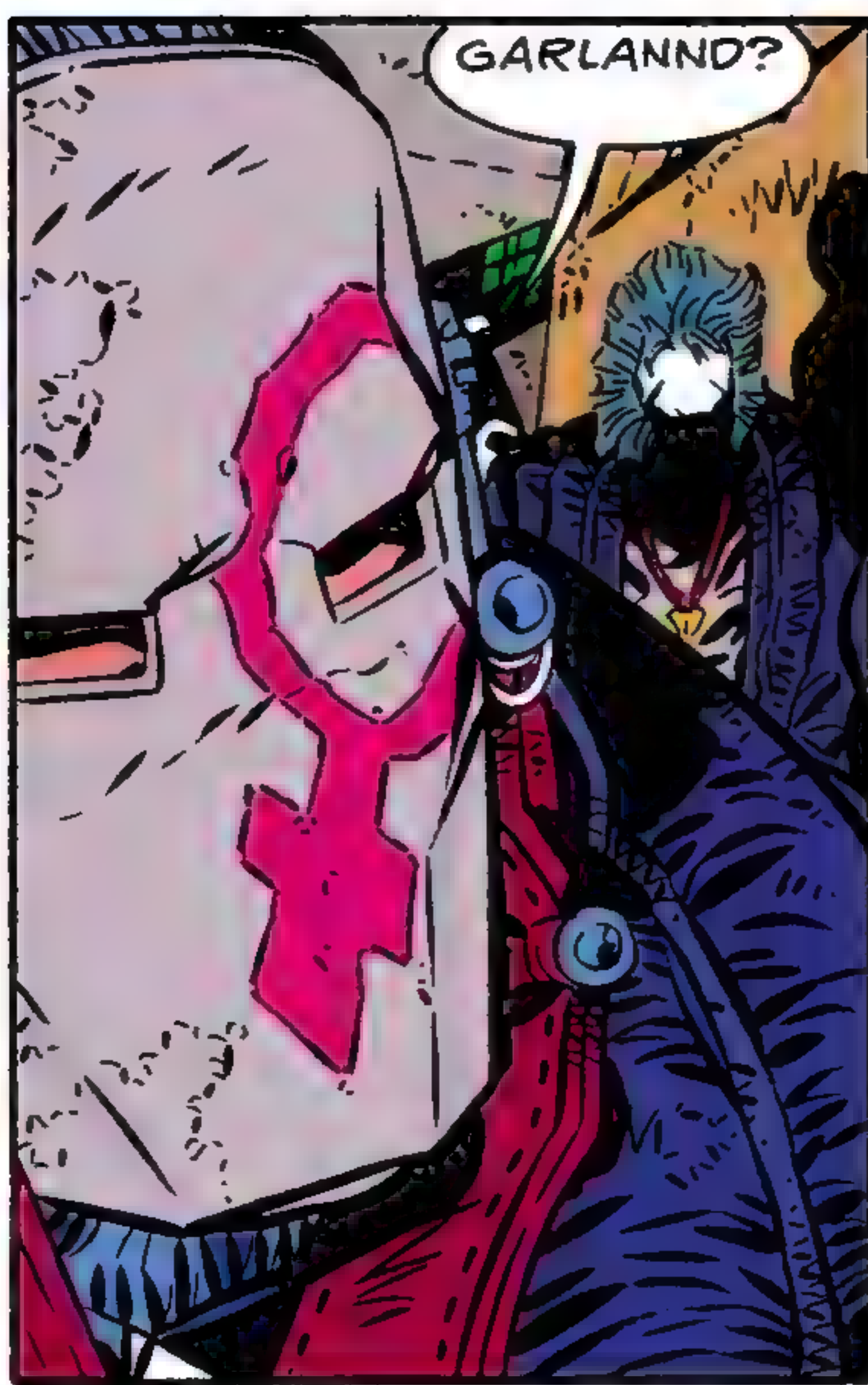
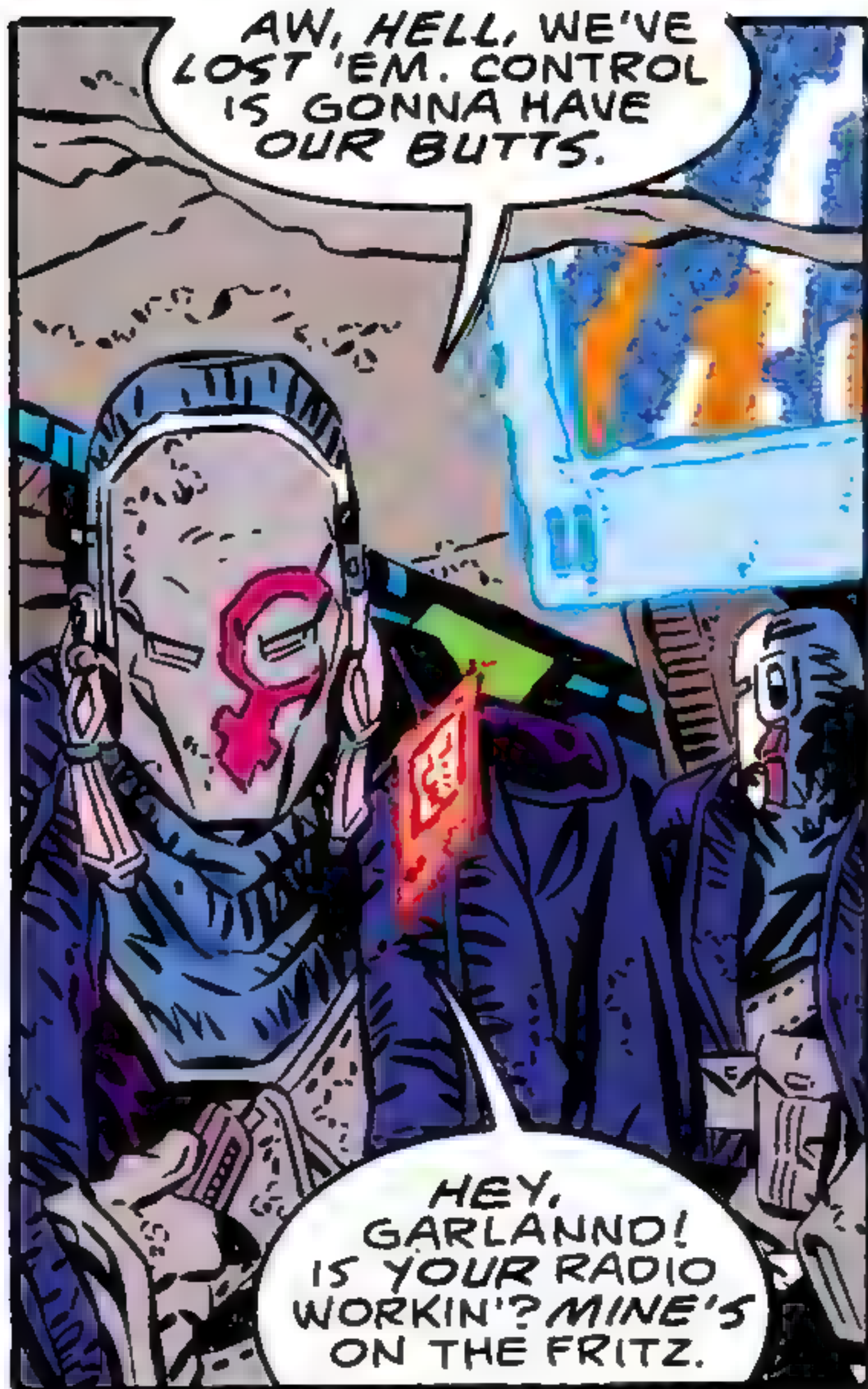


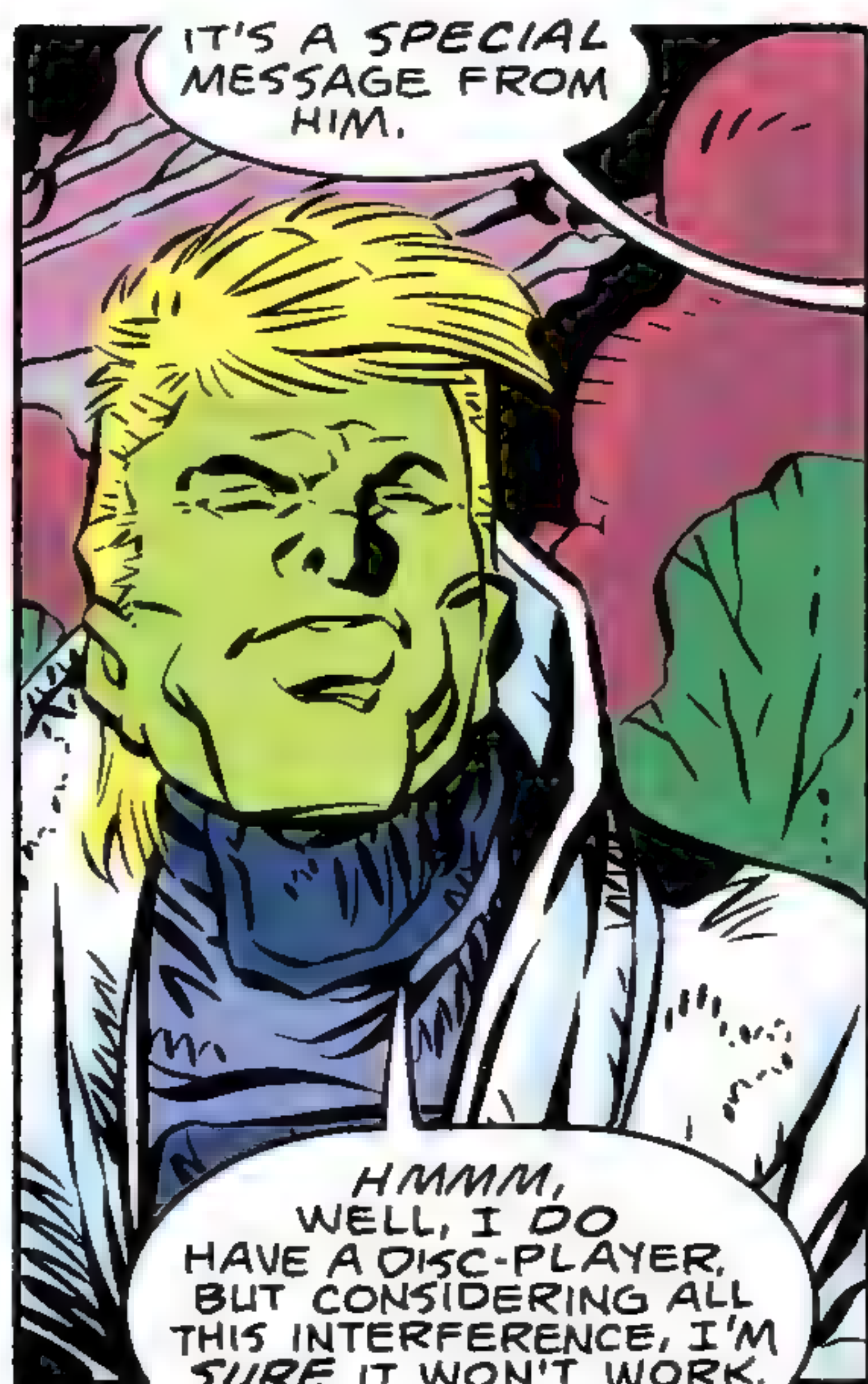
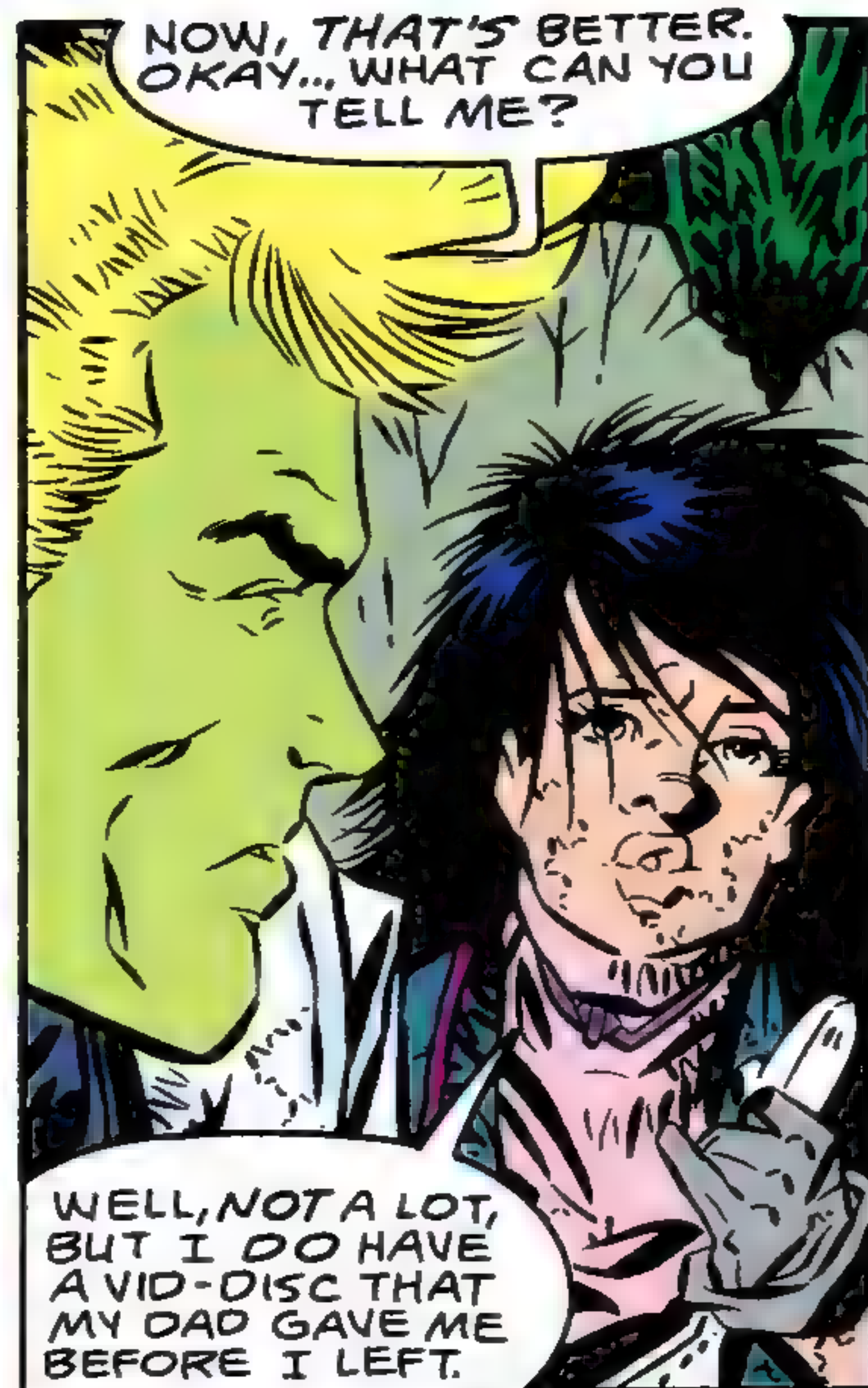
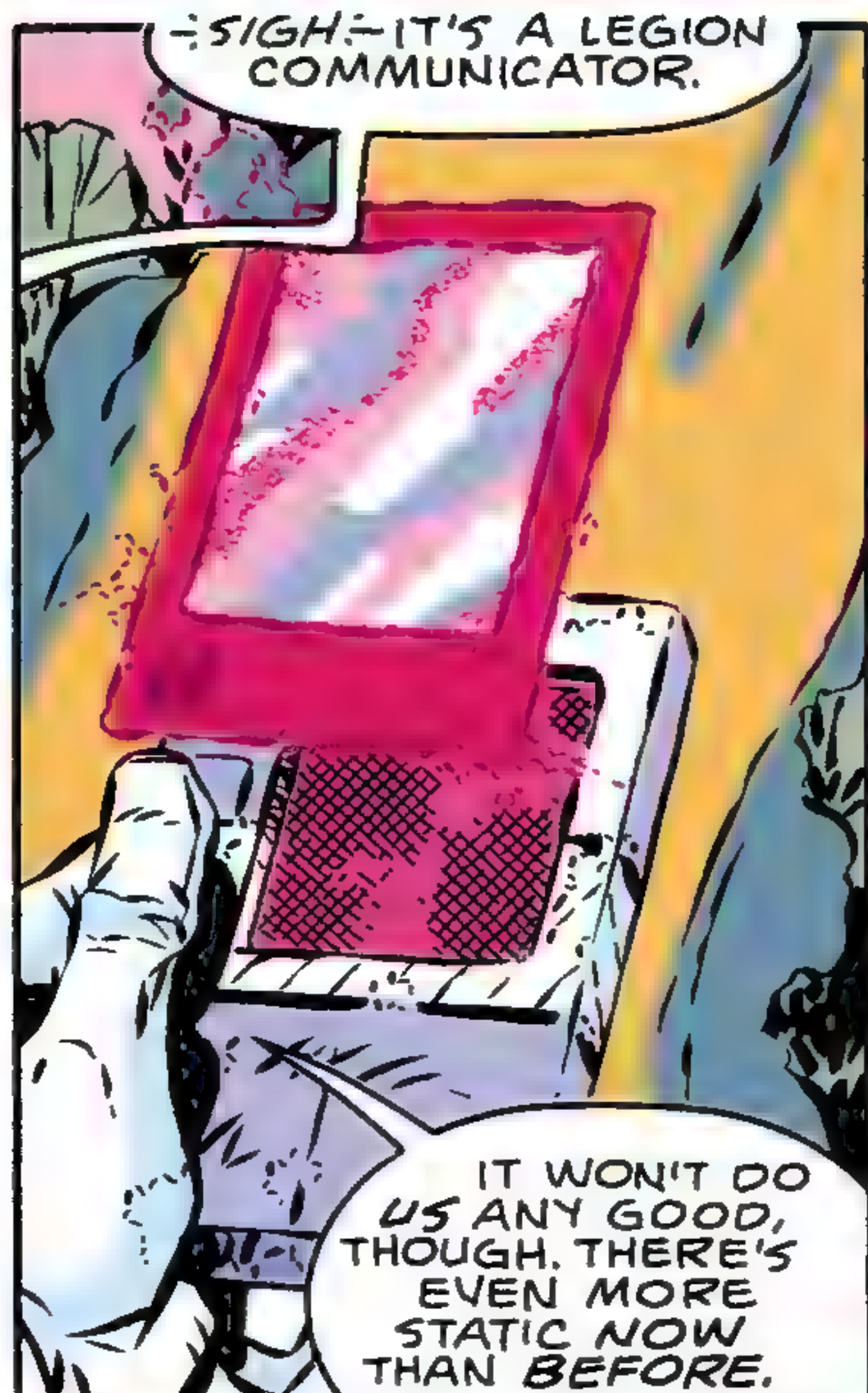


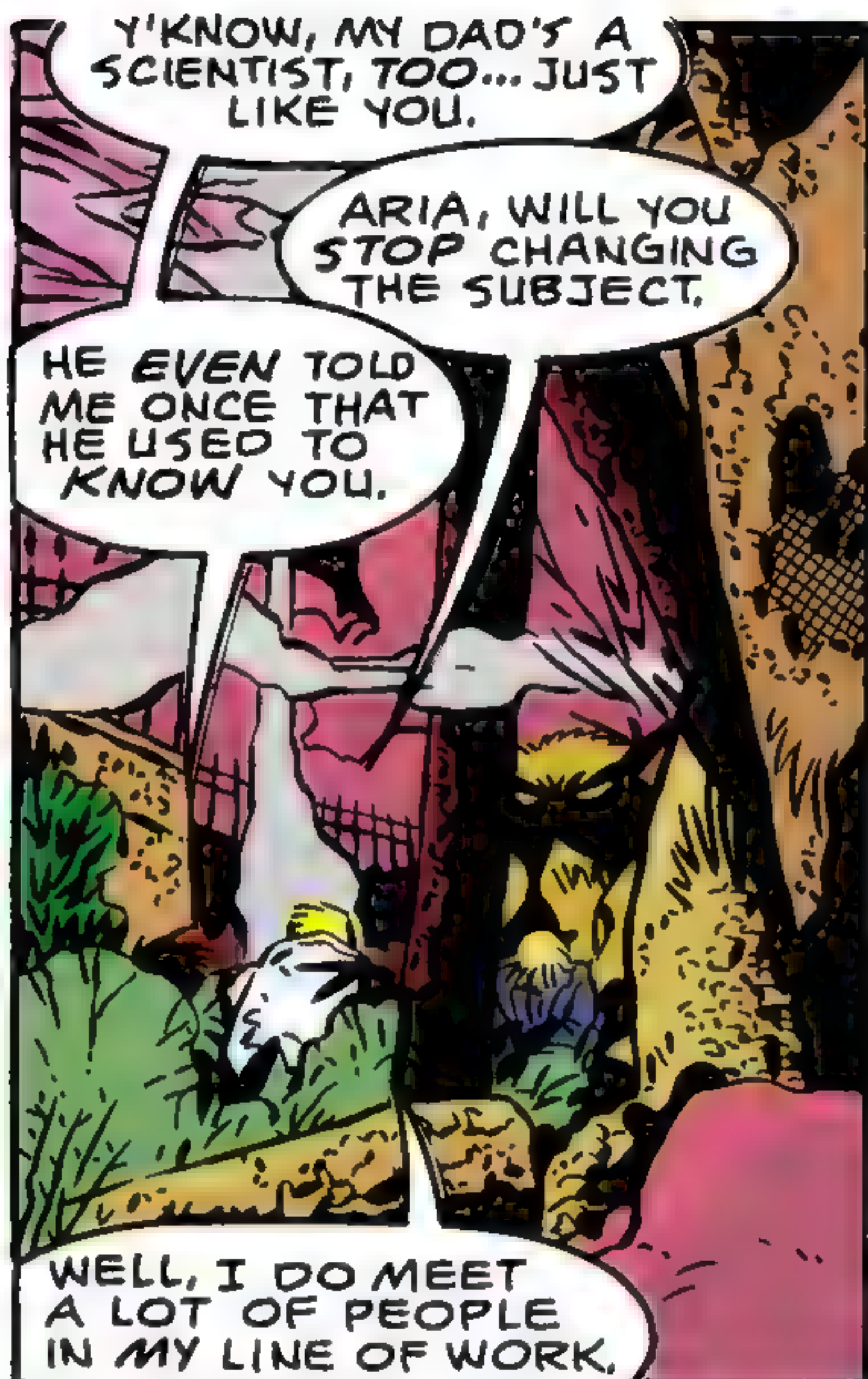










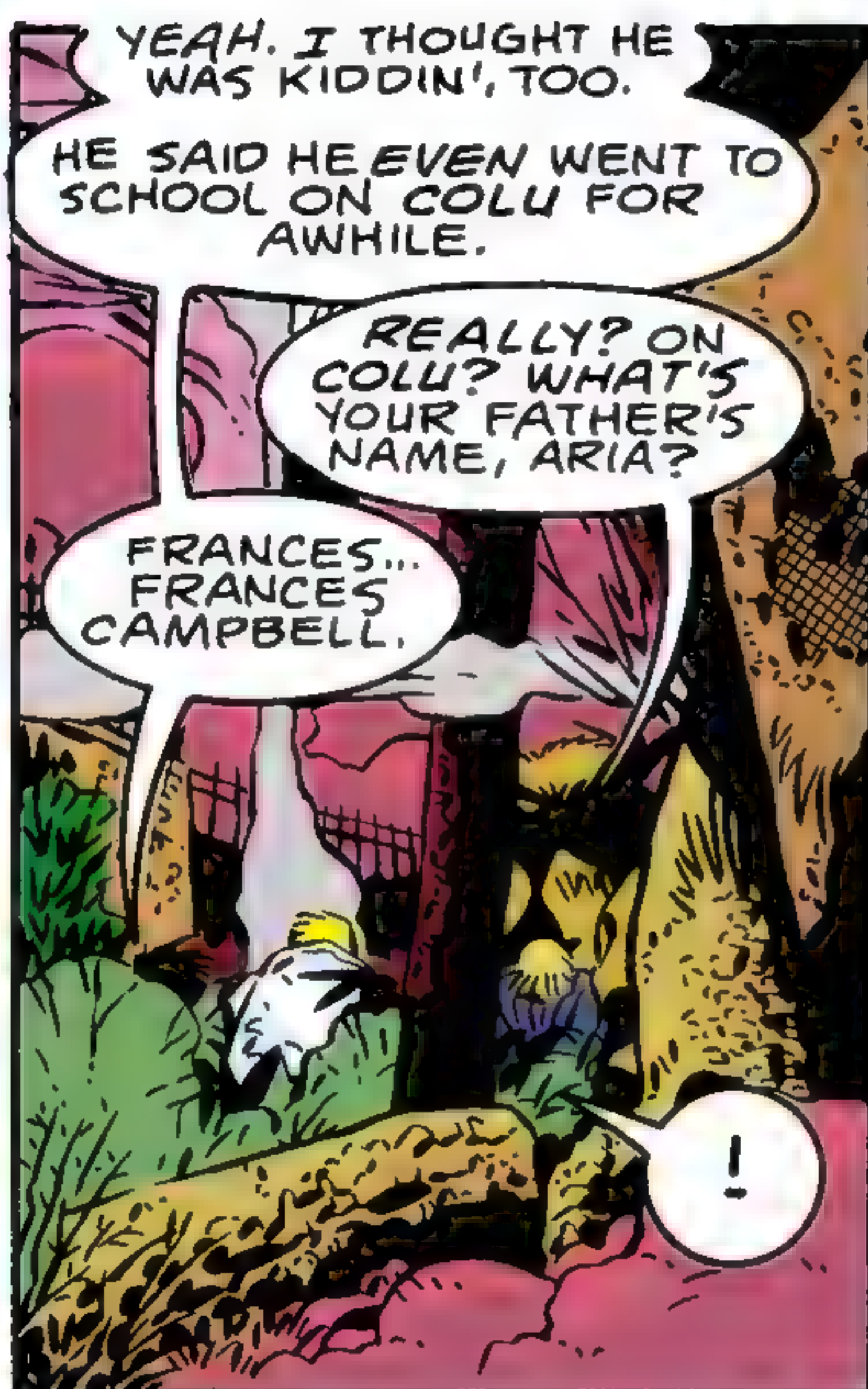


Y'KNOW, MY DAD'S A SCIENTIST, TOO... JUST LIKE YOU.

ARIA, WILL YOU STOP CHANGING THE SUBJECT.

HE EVEN TOLD ME ONCE THAT HE USED TO KNOW YOU.

WELL, I DO MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE IN MY LINE OF WORK.



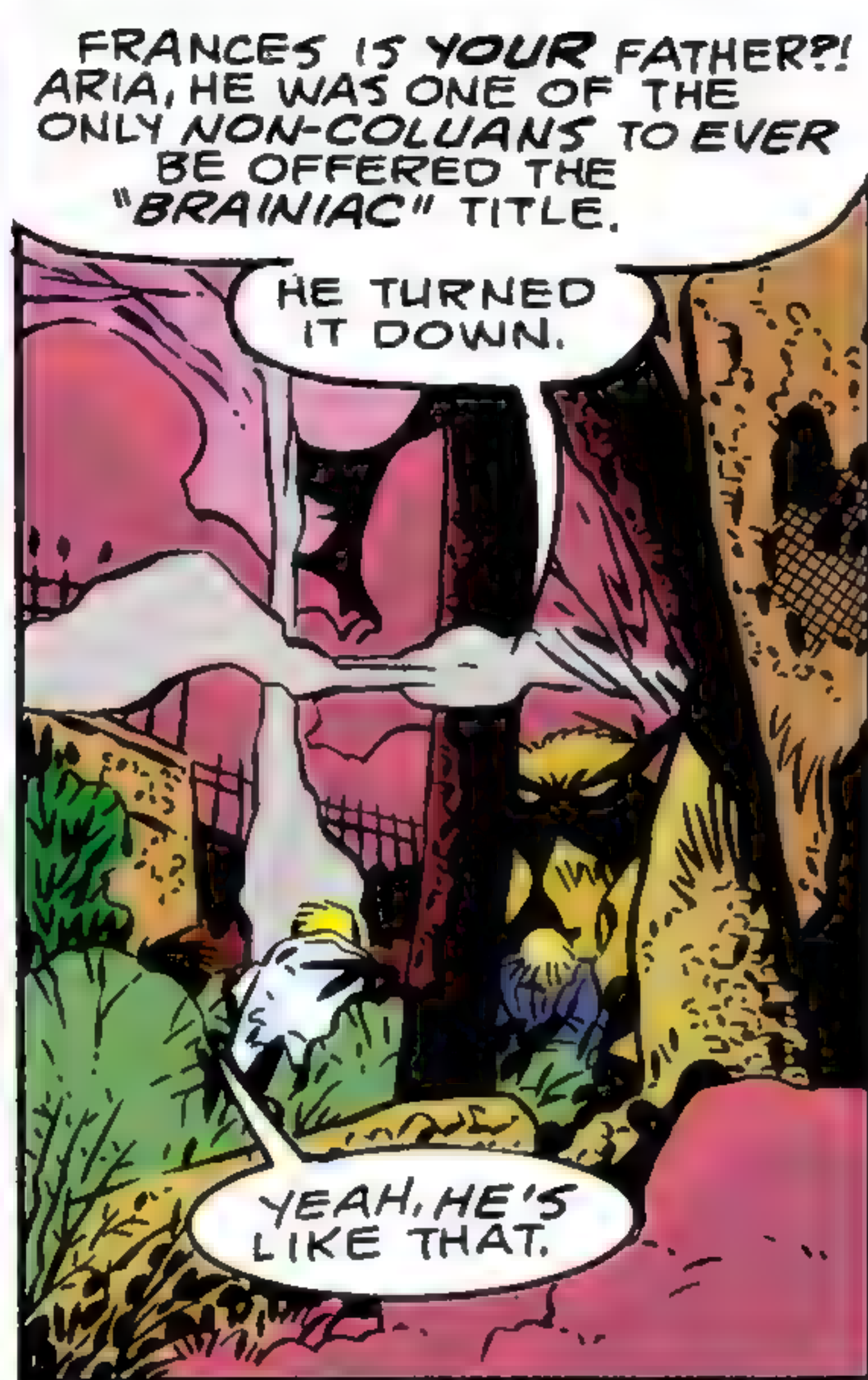
YEAH. I THOUGHT HE WAS KIDDIN', TOO.

HE SAID HE EVEN WENT TO SCHOOL ON COLU FOR AWHILE.

REALLY? ON COLU? WHAT'S YOUR FATHER'S NAME, ARIA?

FRANCES... FRANCES CAMPBELL.

!



FRANCES IS YOUR FATHER?! ARIA, HE WAS ONE OF THE ONLY NON-COLUANS TO EVER BE OFFERED THE "BRAINIAC" TITLE.

HE TURNED IT DOWN.

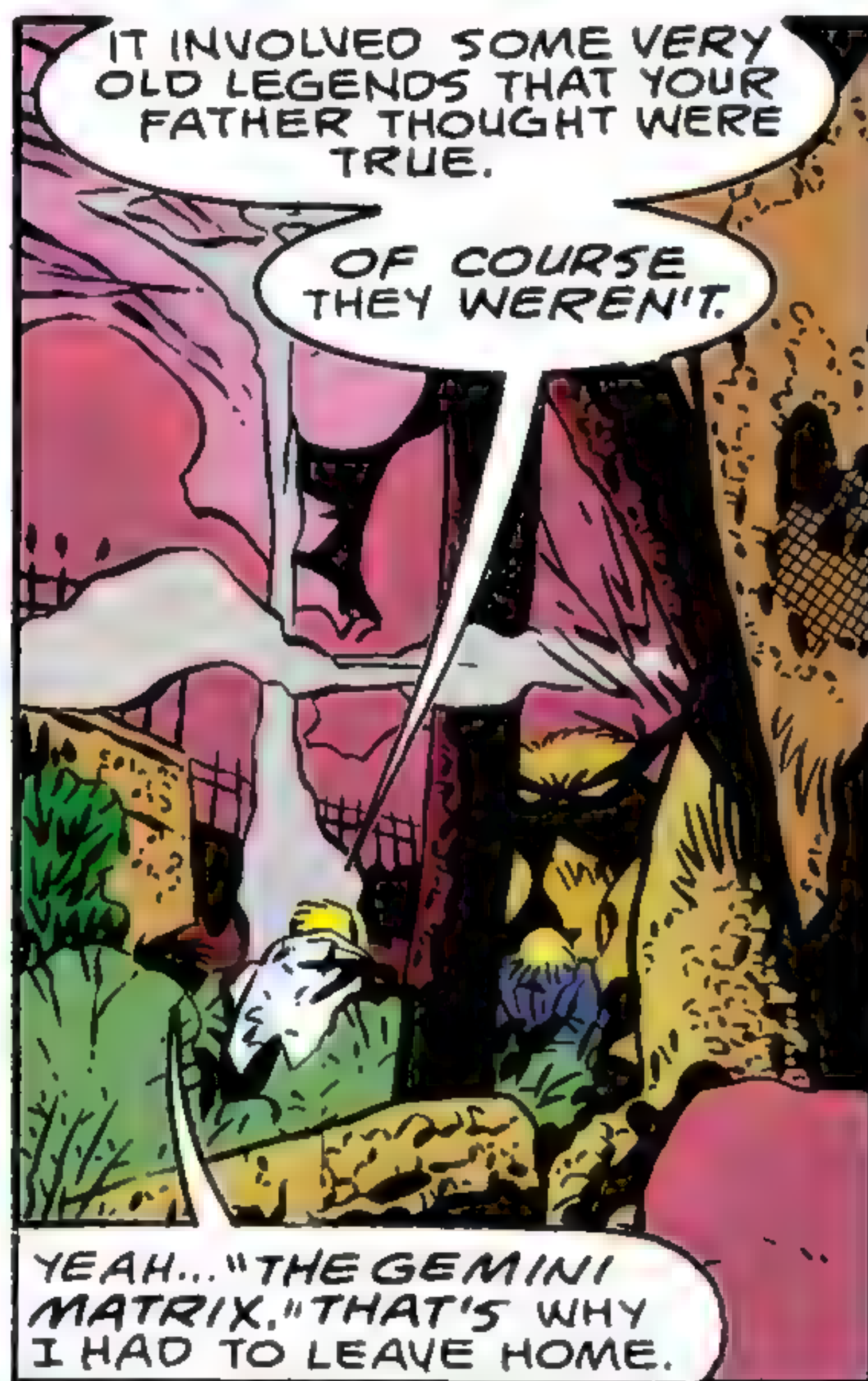
YEAH, HE'S LIKE THAT.



YOU SEE, THERE WERE A LOT OF POLITICAL MANIPULATIONS AT THAT TIME.

AND YOUR FATHER WAS A BIT ECCENTRIC.

HE WAS WORKING ON A FOOLISH PERSONAL PROJECT THAT HE CALLED "THE GEMINI MATRIX."



IT INVOLVED SOME VERY OLD LEGENDS THAT YOUR FATHER THOUGHT WERE TRUE.

OF COURSE THEY WEREN'T.

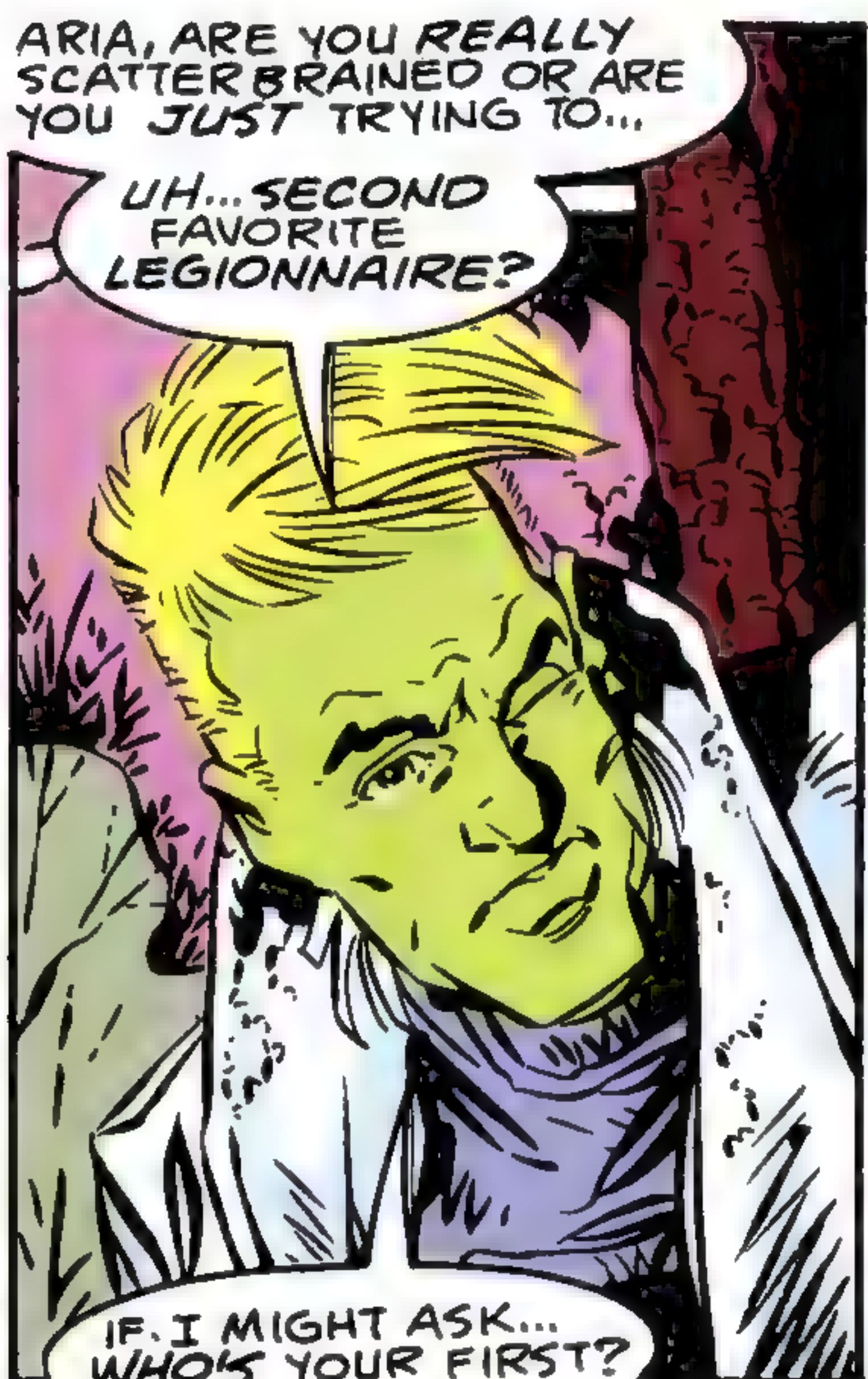
YEAH... "THE GEMINI MATRIX," THAT'S WHY I HAD TO LEAVE HOME.



EXCUSE ME? YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

YEAH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THE ONE AND ONLY BRAINIAC 5... MY SECOND FAVORITE LEGIONNAIRE.



ARIA, ARE YOU REALLY SCATTERBRAINED OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO...

UH... SECOND FAVORITE LEGIONNAIRE?

IF I MIGHT ASK... WHO'S YOUR FIRST?



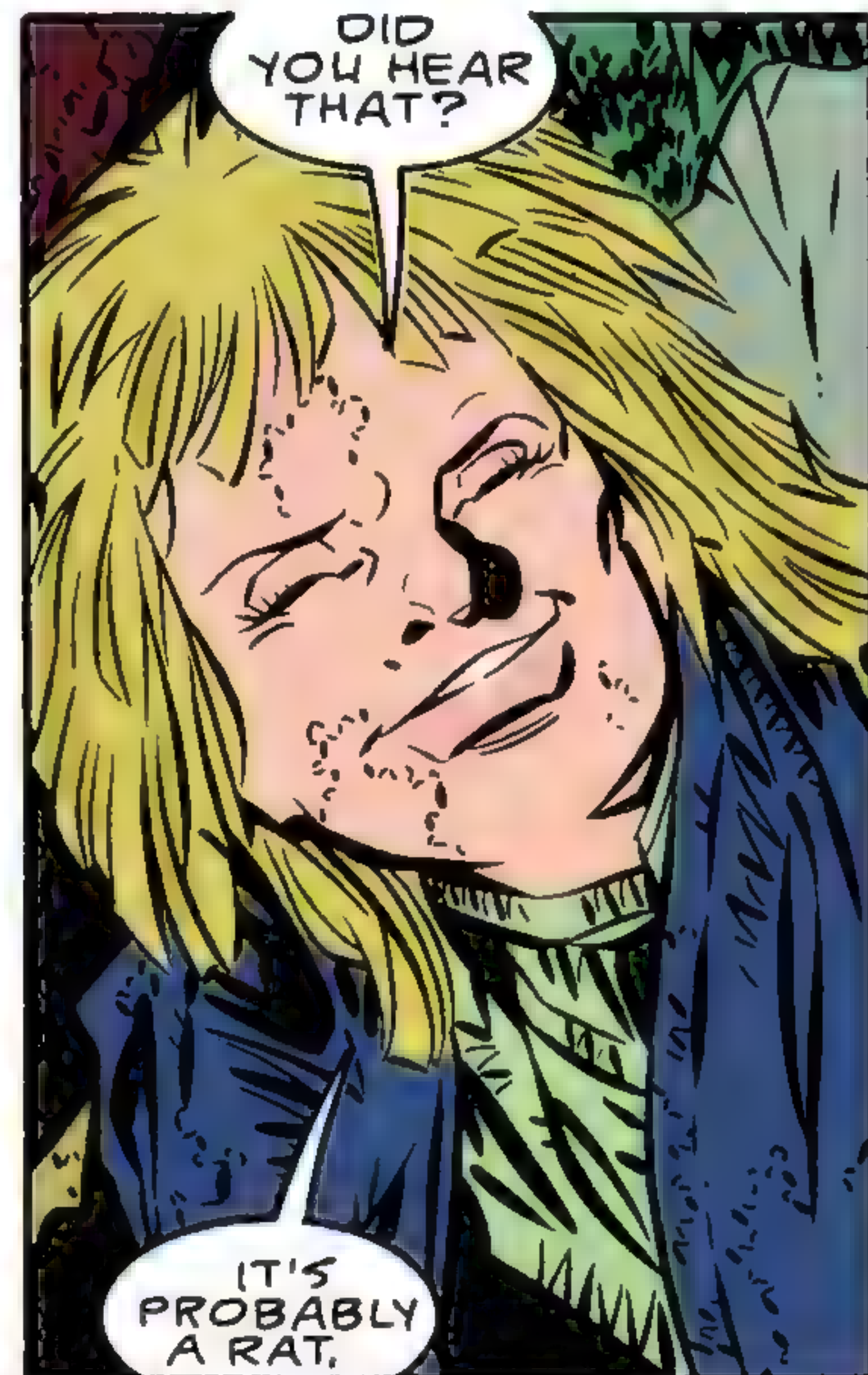
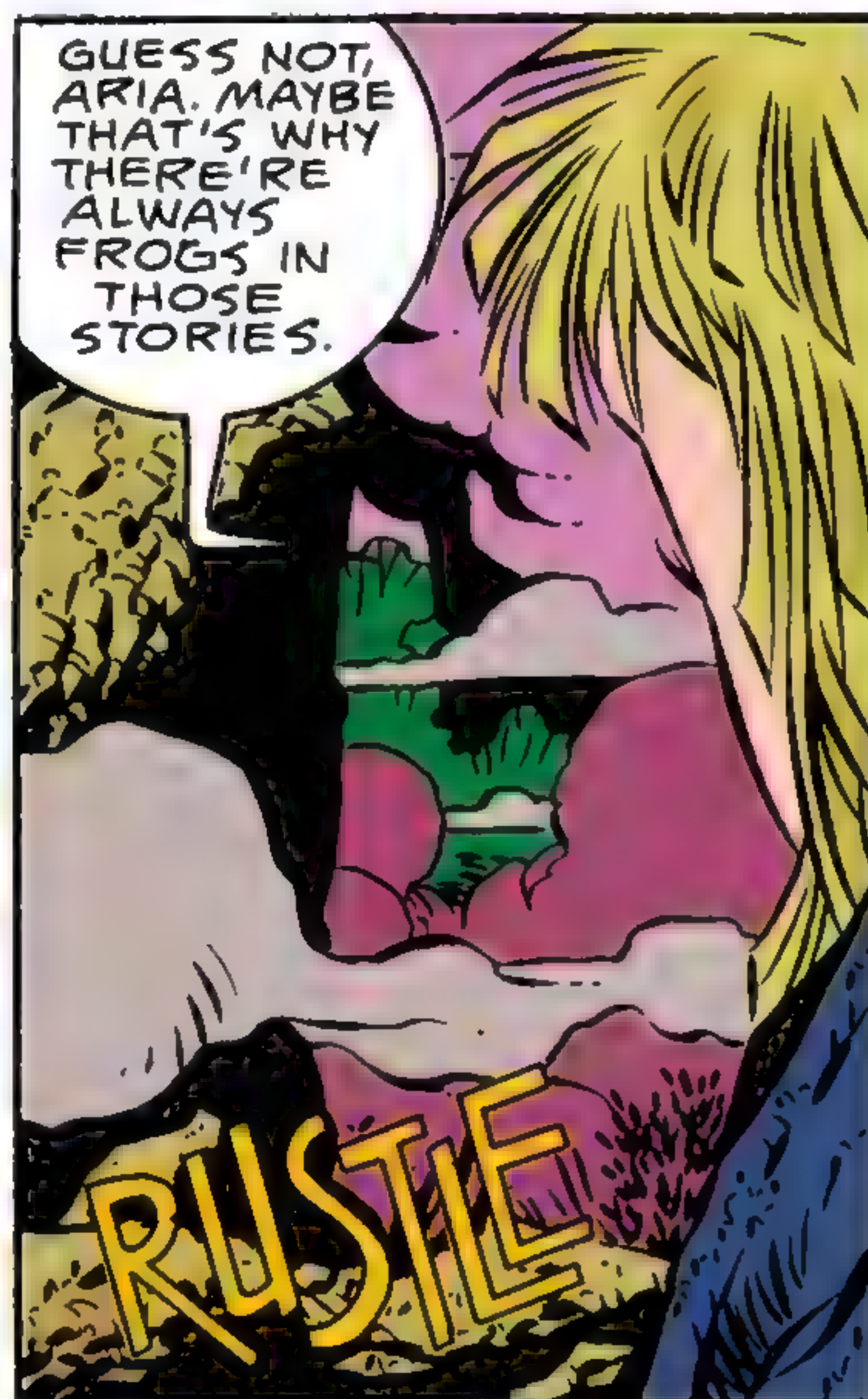
TIMBERWOLF, OF COURSE. -GIGGLE-



LICKKKK!

HEY, FRISKY... WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?

VERY SUBTLE, BRIN... I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW.



THE QUIET DARKNESS
PART TWO

AL GORDON
WRITER-INKER

KEITH GIFFEN
PENCILLER

JOHN WORKMAN
LETTERER

TOM McCRAW
COLORIST

DAN RASPLER
EDITOR

JACK KIRBY
DARKSEID CREATOR

LEGION HEADQUARTERS, TALUS...



I DON'T KNOW, ROKK,
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL
LIKE IT DID IN THE
OLD DAYS.



I MEAN, WE'VE GOT
HALF THE TEAM ON
EARTH, HALF THE
TEAM ON ZUUN...
NOBODY'S
REPORTING
IN...



NOBODY
WANTS CODE
NAMES...

THEY WON'T
EVEN WEAR THE
FULL UNIFORMS...



YEAH, BUT CHAM, WE
DON'T WANT TO OVERDO
THE STRUCTURE THING,
EITHER. THAT'S PART OF
WHAT DRAGGED US DOWN
BEFORE.



RULES AND
UNIFORMS AND
POWERS WEREN'T
REALLY WHAT MADE
US A TEAM.



IT WAS THE
PEOPLE.

GOOD PEOPLE...
YOU'RE NEVER GOING
TO FIND BETTER.



THE IMPORTANT
THING IS TO HOLD
ON TO THEM.

--KEEP THEM
HERE BECAUSE THEY
WANT TO BE HERE.



YEAH, YEAH.
I GUESS WE
EITHER TRUST
THEM OR WE
DON'T.

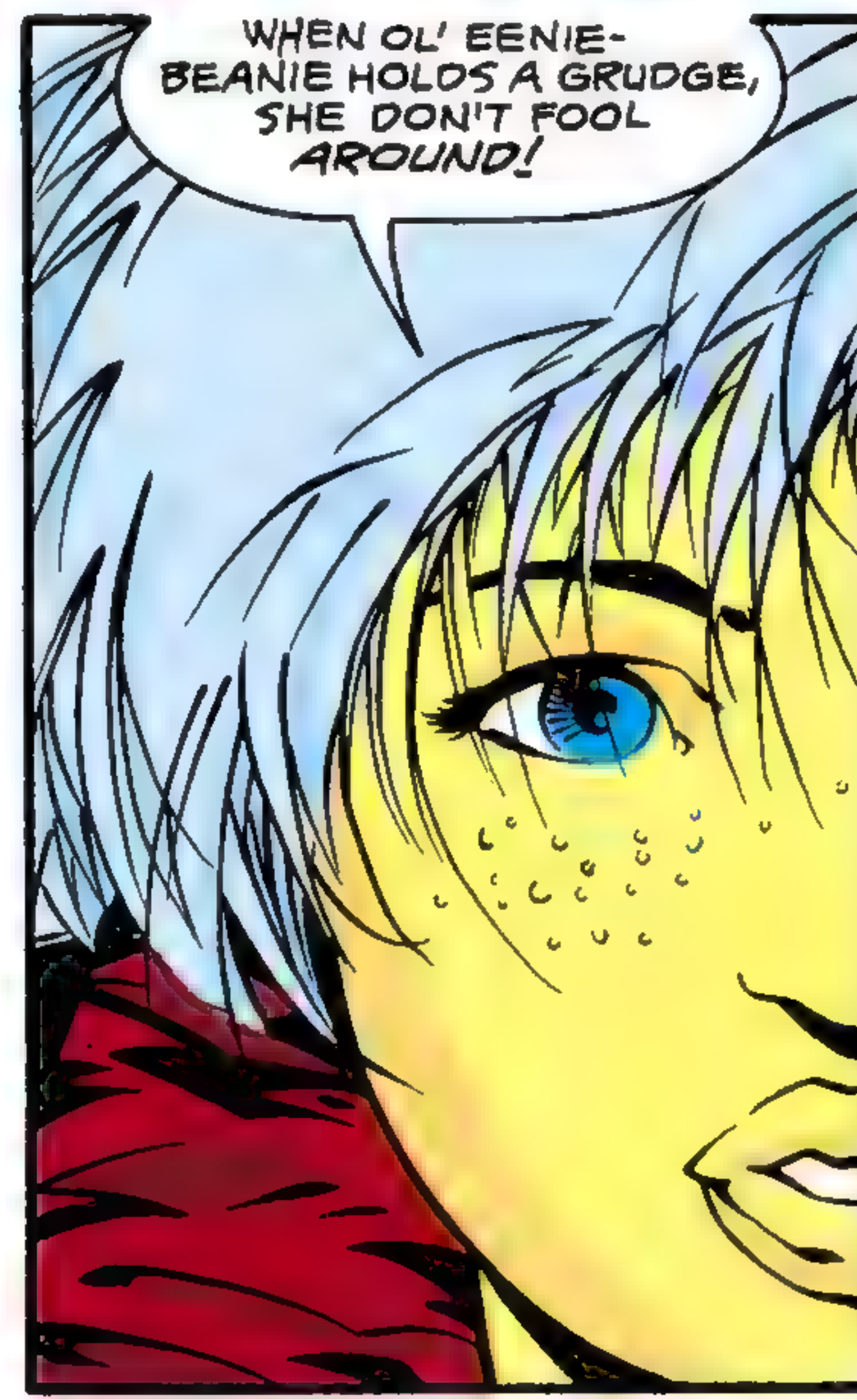
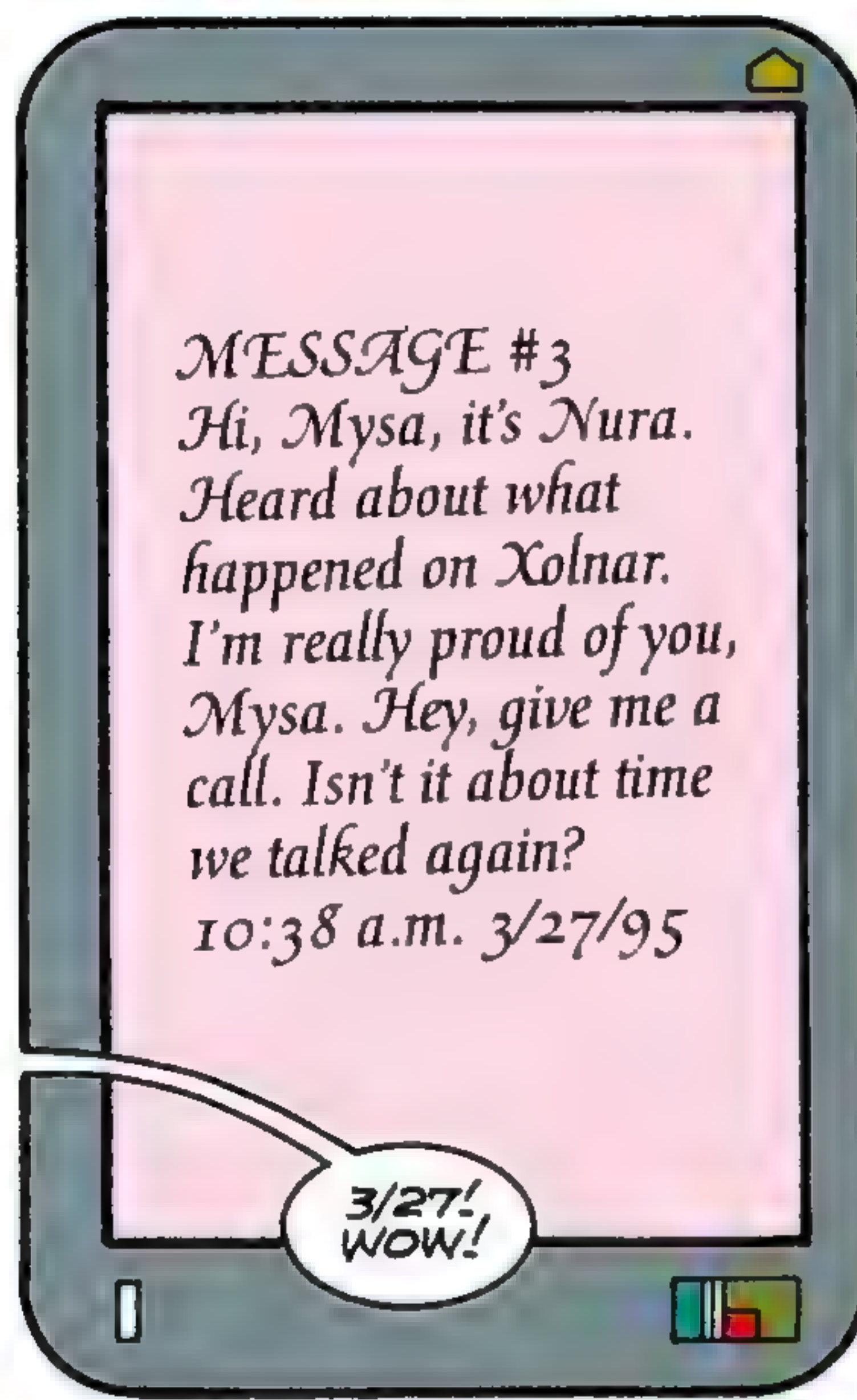
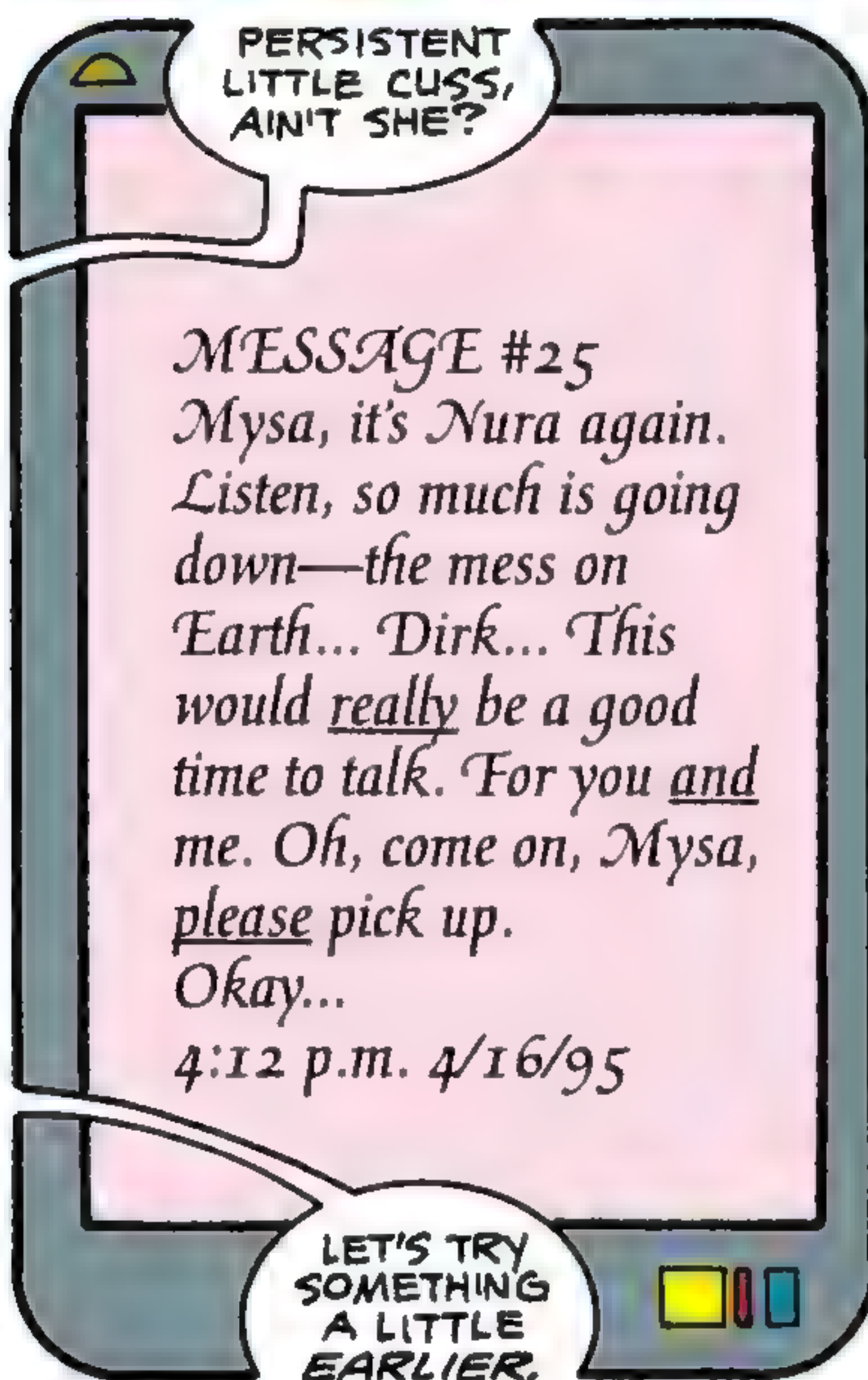
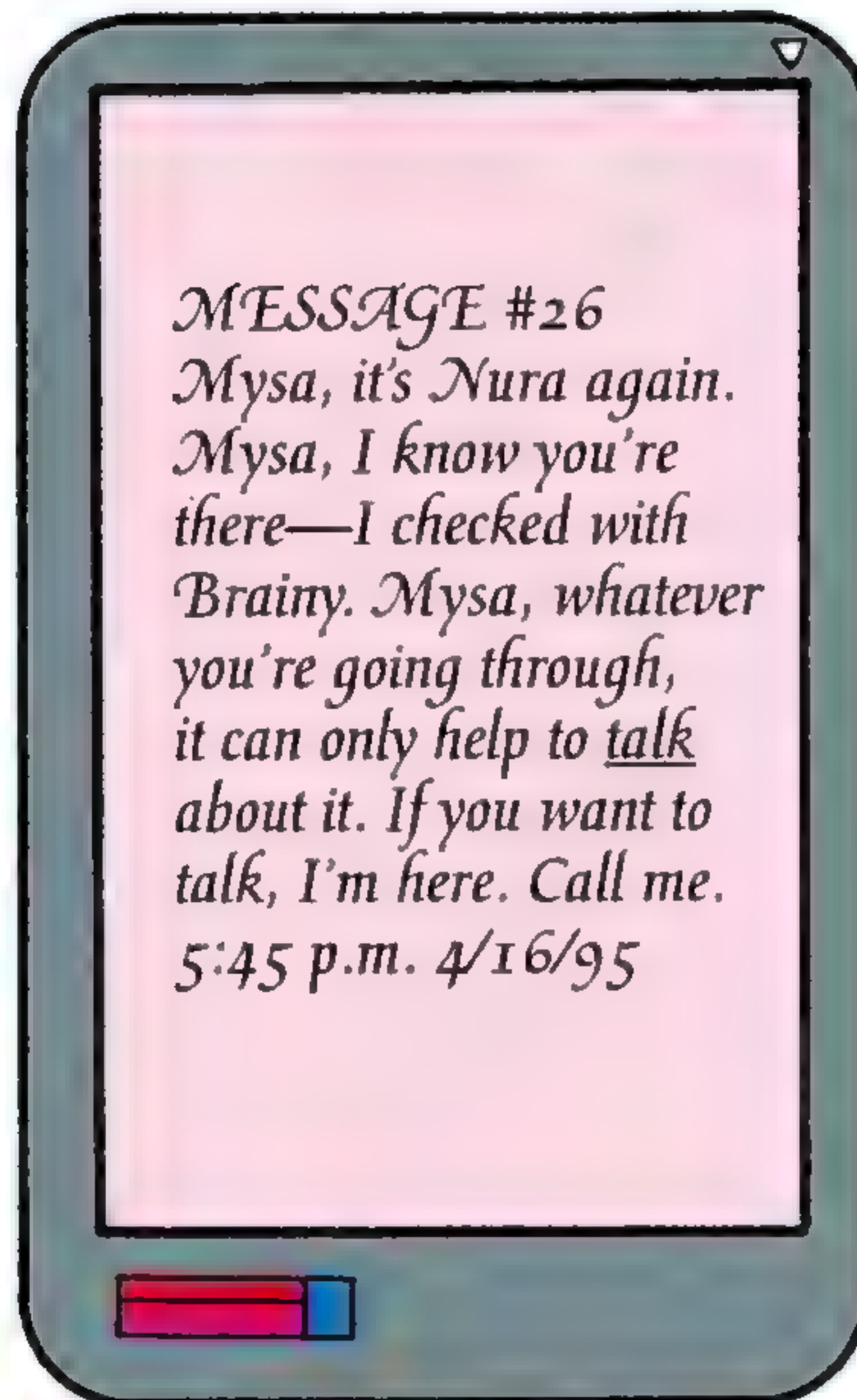
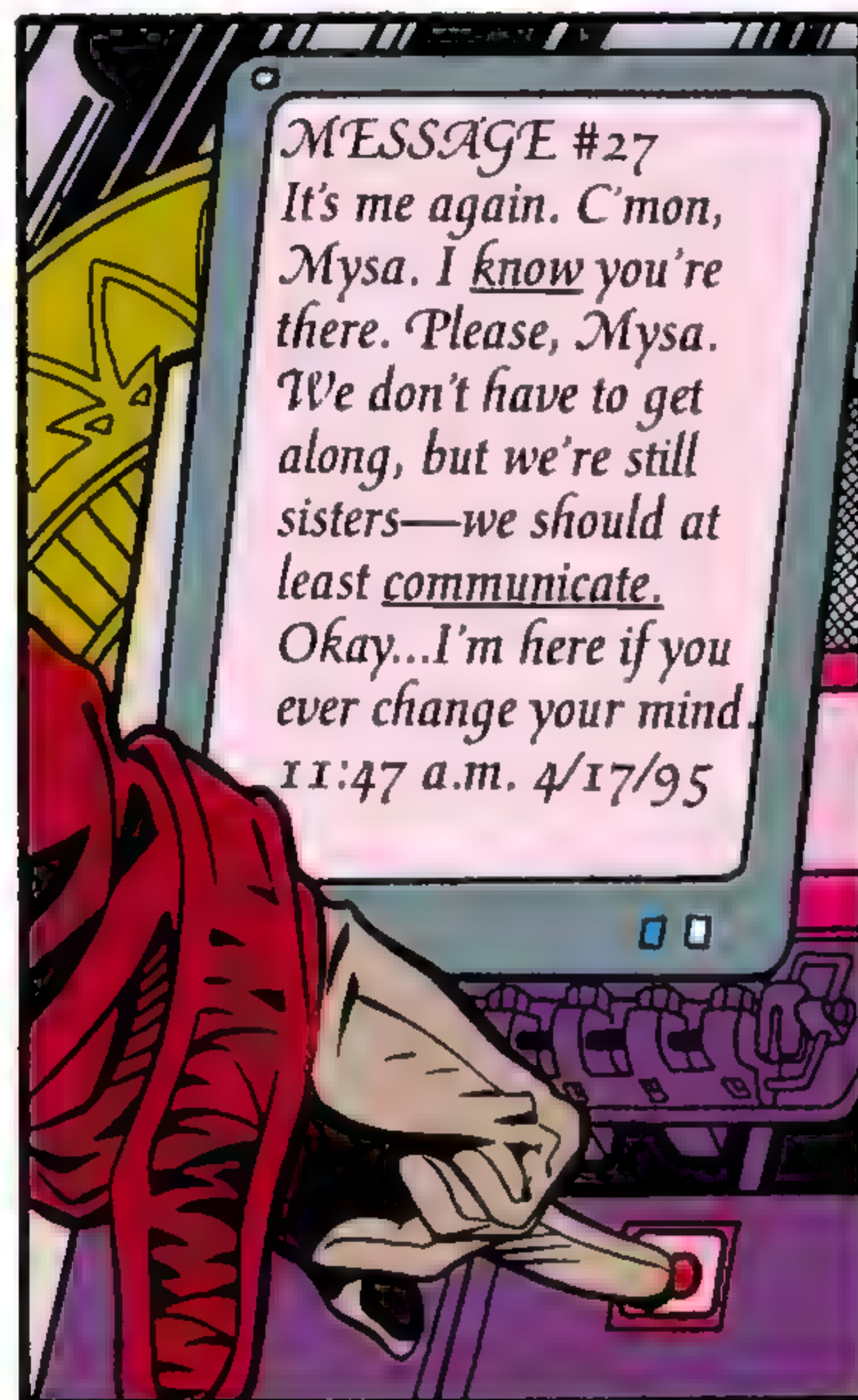
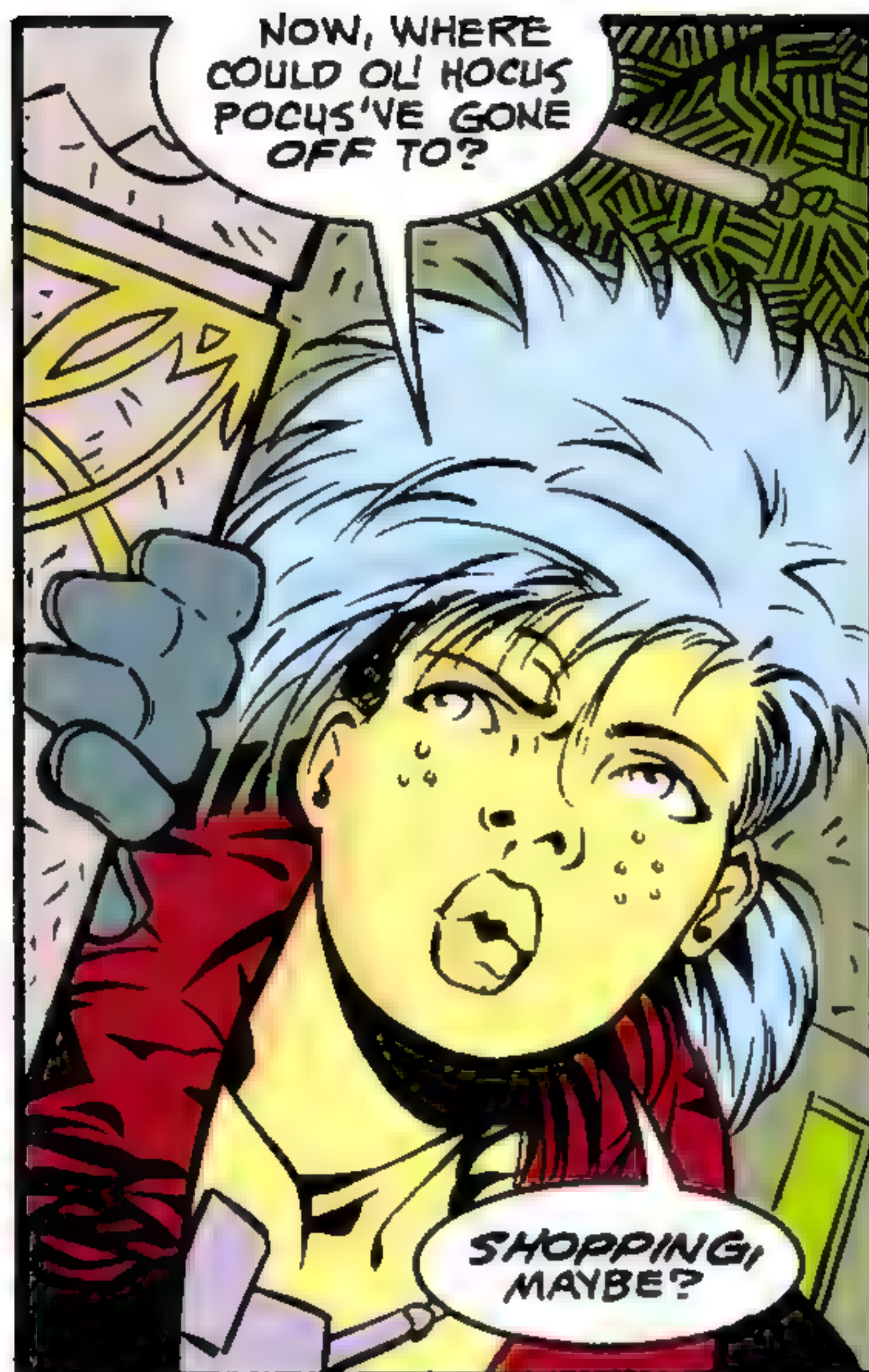
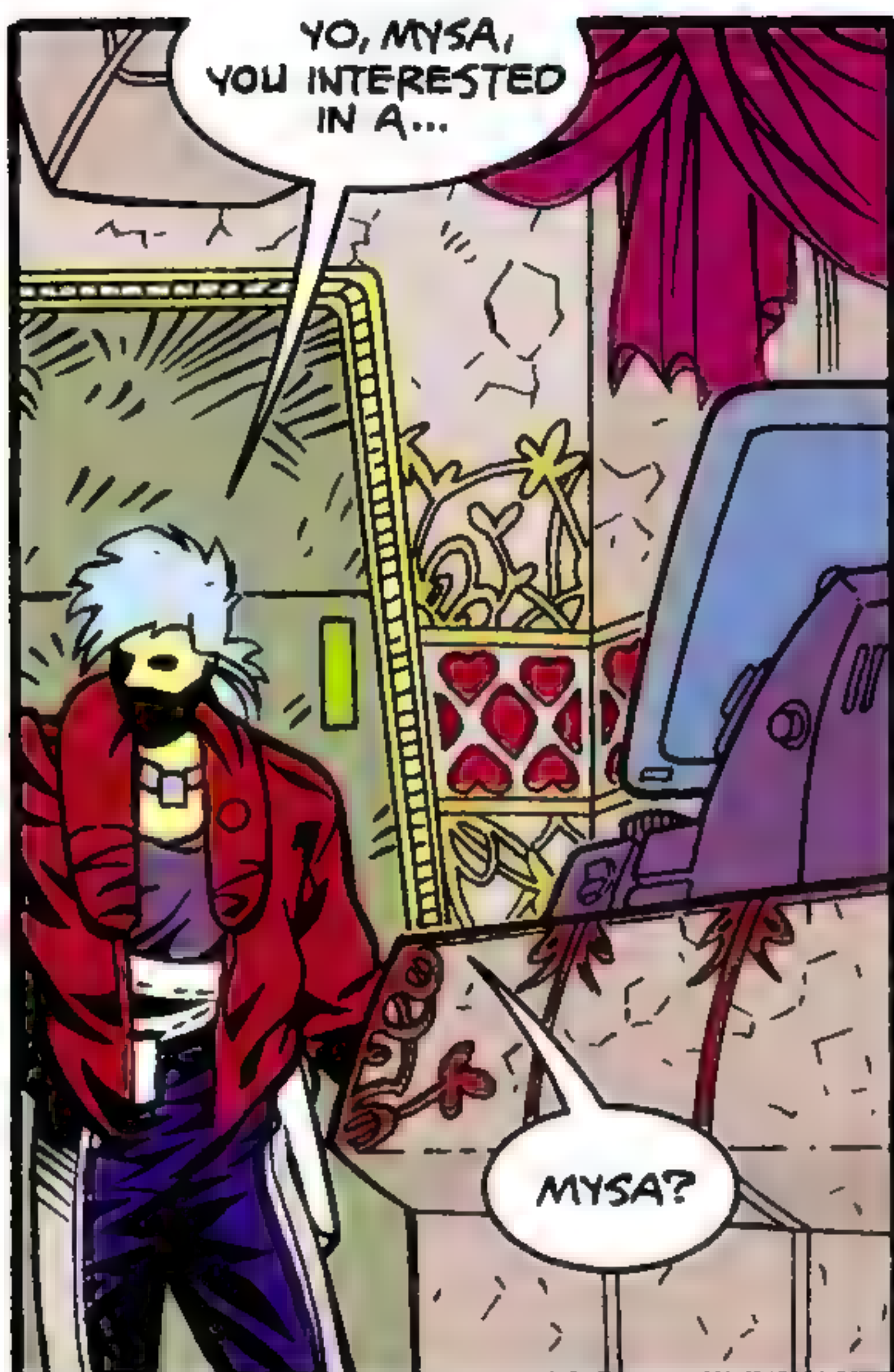
EXACTLY.



SO ALL I
HAVE TO DO
IS LEARN TO
TRUST
THEM.

THAT'S
ALL...

NASS, I
WONDER HOW
MY FATHER KEPT
HIS SANITY.





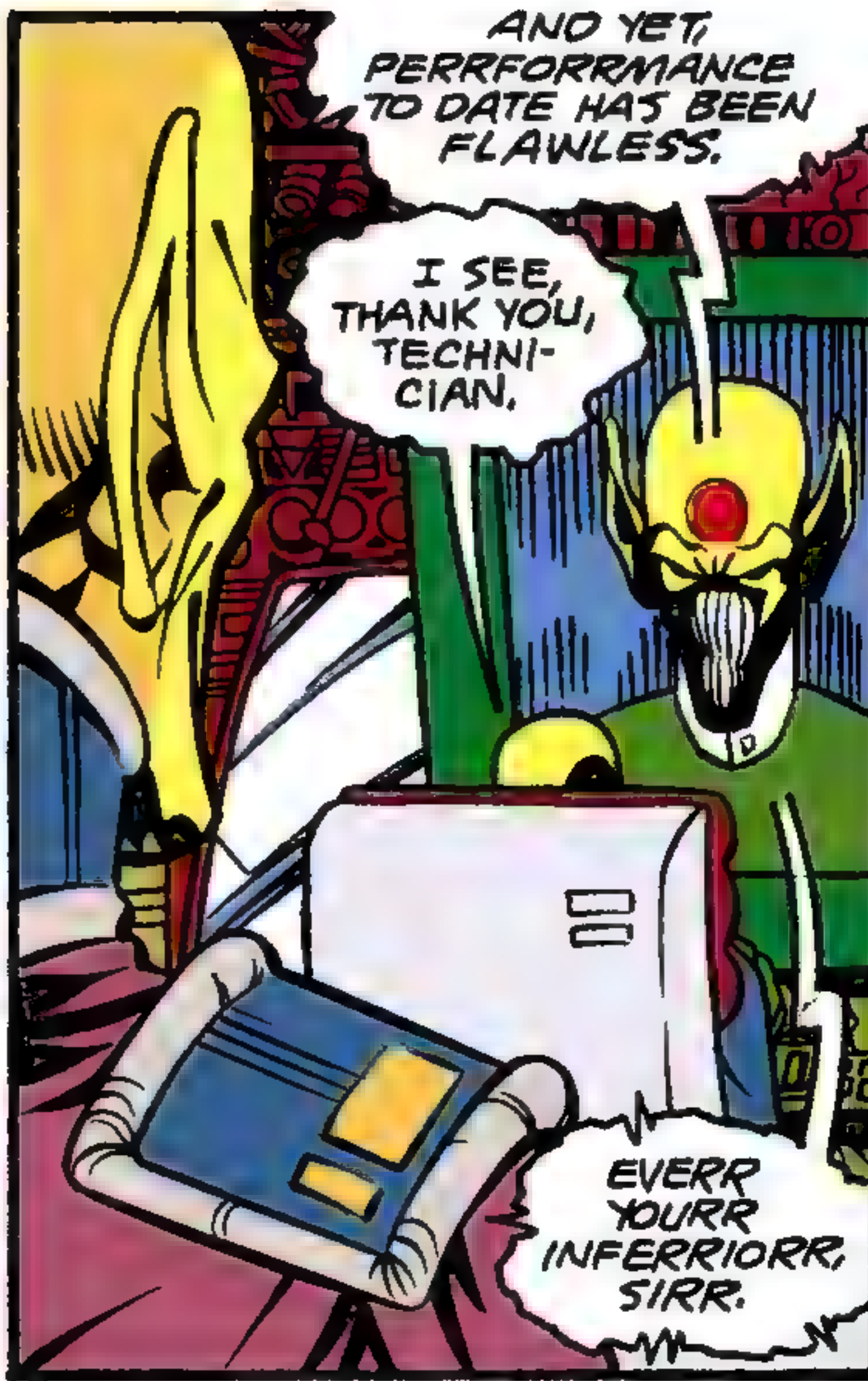
EARTH...

AS YOU REQUESTED, SIR, WE'VE CONDUCTED SECONDARY AND TERTIARY TESTING ON PROJECT CHAMPION...



AND AGAIN THE RESULTS EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS.

THE PRIMARY VARIABLE CONTINUES TO BE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MINDWIPE.



AND YET, PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS BEEN FLAWLESS.

I SEE, THANK YOU, TECHNICIAN.

EVERY YOUR INFERIOR, SIR.



INTERESTING, eh?

THOSE EMBASSY DISK-LICKERS FINALLY DID SOMETHING RIGHT?



SIR, COVERT OPERATIONS STILL SUGGESTS MORE TESTING.

WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN TIME, WE COULD RETRIEVE BATCH SW6.



NO, MY INFERIOR, TIME IS THE ONE THING WE'VE RUN OUT OF, eh?



THE FATE OF THIS ENTIRE COMPOST PILE MAY REST WITH THE POWERS OF BATCH SW6.



YOU WILL TURN YOUR FILES OVER TO TACTICAL.

BUT...

YES, SIRRR.



WE WILL RETRIEVE BATCH SW6, eh?

AND PROJECT CHAMPION WILL DO IT.

THE ALTAIR
SECTOR...

SURE NEVER EXPECTED A
DARK CIRCLE OUTPOST
OUT HERE...

I'D HAVE BET ANYTHING
THEY BUGGED OUT BACK
IN THE '70s WHEN WE
REPELLED THEIR FIRST
INVASION OF EARTH.

WE SURE AS HECK
WOULDN'T'VE LEFT THEM
ALONE IF WE'D KNOWN
THEY WERE THIS
CLOSE TO U.P. SPACE.

DOESN'T MATTER, I
SUPPOSE. IT'S NOW A
FORMER DARK
CIRCLE OUTPOST.

BUT JUST
ONCE...

JUST ONCE I WISH
THESE GUYS WOULD
BE WILLING TO TALK
INSTEAD OF ATTACK-
ING.

NO SENSE WAITING FOR
THEM TO WAKE UP. I'LL GET
MORE INFORMATION OUT
OF THE COMPUTERS.

WAIT A MINUTE!
THE COMPUTERS
ARE ACTIVE!

PURGING
THEMSELVES!

DELETE
DELETE
DELETE

DUMPING THEIR INTELLI-
GENCE... MUST NOT WANT
IT TO FALL INTO U.P. HANDS.

SHOULD BE SIMPLE
ENOUGH TO SHUT OFF.

...OKAY...
OKAY...
GOT IT.

NOW WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT
WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO
HIDE...

New cell samples provided by Agent Nardo. Dolminae team now able to grow new subjects.



Supply of cell samples replenished, plus additions for new subjects Armorr, Nolan and Projectra, acquired through agents within Khundish military.



Updated Hem, Taine and G. Ranzz
cell samples obtained through
Tartarun exchange. Supply of other
subjects critically low. Military now
committed to 10/78 invasion with
or without substitution strategy.

[illegible]

**GOD IN
HEAVEN.**



DAN RASPLER
EDITOR

Personal Journal
Tasmia Mallor



4/12/95

Three days out from Carggg, currently in Tharr sector. Lar's never happier than when he's out in the vast stretches. Always thought this kind of thing would bore me out of my skull, but a dark, cold void becomes a beautiful act of god when you're seeing it through his eyes. We watched the Ringed Giant for two hours and I don't think we said five words between us. It was beautiful.

4/13/95

Learned of Luna's destruction via intercepted Dark Circle broadcast.

I remember before I met Lar, I'd hear about things like this and think, "What's it to me? Where were their tears during Talok's famines?" But Lar doesn't have it in him to make those distinctions. He sees the irreplaceable value of all life and the tragedy of any being's suffering.

I must have cried for half an hour. But Lar was the one who needed the help and support. He knows he can't violate Earthgov's embargo against outside rescue attempts—he can't force his solutions on an unwilling people. But I don't think it was ever harder for Lar to live up to his ideals than it was today.

4/14/95

Entering Altair sector. Having trouble sleeping, thinking about all those friends still on Earth. Are they alive? Are they okay? Lar's having even more trouble living with this thing than I am. Starting to brood the way he used to. Hope I can make it a little easier for him.

4/15/95

Feeling a little better. Flew among the Amadus Orbital Monuments. Always reminds me what insignificant bits we are in the great machinery of the heavens.

4/16/95

Reached Graa. Had a wonderful day at our favorite little swimming hole. Lar's enjoying himself again. Nice to know I'm still a big help in getting Lar through the tough times.

4/17/95

Something's wrong. Lar is upset, very withdrawn. Something must have happened at this Dark Circle base we unexpectedly encountered in the 1363 system here in the Altair region.

They attacked us, so Lar went out and took care of them. But he was gone nearly an hour and didn't want to talk about it when he got back.

I'd never trade my life with Lar for anything, but Ancestors, I pay the price. When this man who's nearly a god holds me in his arms, I feel like no force in this universe could ever threaten us.

But it just hurts that much more when that wonderful feeling gets ripped to shreds—when I can tell that Lar is scared of something...

And I don't even want to think about what scares Lar.



SCIENCE POLICE

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION INVESTIGATION

THE MATTER OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF'S HELMET: DOCUMENT ONE



SCIENCE POLICE LOG

FORM 58722: ANONYMOUS TIP REPORT

DATE: 3/13/95, 1138 PM

REPORTING OFFICER ROON DVRON

HAVE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS TIP AT 1132 PM THAT SUSSA PAKA (AKA "SPIDER GIRL") PLANS TO STEAL THE STANCIO DAZZLE GEM FROM XANTHU'S MUSEUM OF 1000 WORLDS THIS A.M.

TIP UNTRACEABLE. POSSIBLE SOURCE IS BENN PARES (SEE ACCESS NOTES BELOW).

OFFICER DVRON REQUESTS CLEARANCE TO INVESTIGATE AND ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND SUSPECT.

ACCESS: STANCIO DAZZLE GEM, CASE BACKGROUND

TIP 3/7 INDICATES SUSPICION THAT CONVICTED THIEF BENN PARES (SELF-PROCLAIMED "GREATEST THIEF IN THE GALAXY") AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS SUSSA PAKA (AKA SPIDER GIRL) ARE INDEPENDENTLY PLOTTING THEFT OF STANCIO DAZZLE GEM. TIP SUGGESTS THAT PARES AND PAKA INVOLVED IN RIVALRY TO OBTAIN PRICELESS GEM. SUSPECTS MAY HAVE BEEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED AT ONE TIME.

BACKGROUND: GEM IS OWNED BY THE SPIFFANY FAMILY. BELIEVED ORIGINALLY MINED ON XANDU IN 27TH CENTURY, ENTERED POSSESSION OF THE STANCIO ROYAL FAMILY OF XANDU IN EARLY 28TH CENTURY. SOLD TO BUSINESS INTERESTS IN EARLY 30TH CENTURY AND ACQUIRED BY SPIFFANY HOLDINGS INTERSTELLAR IN 2958. ON LOAN TO MUSEUM OF 1000 WORLDS SINCE MAY 2994.

CONFIDENTIAL: SOURCE OF TIP ON PARES AND PAKA IS BOSTON FOXWORTH, A PAWNBROKER OF ARCHANGEL, TOONAR. ALLEGES BUT CANNOT PROVE THAT PARES HAS REPEATEDLY BURGLARIED HIS SHOP. ALSO ALLEGES WITH NO PROOF THAT PARES HAS TAUNTED FOXWORTH REGARDING BURGLARIES AT FOXWORTH'S SHOP, CHALLENGING THE PROPRIETOR TO CATCH PARES OR PROVE THEFTS.

ACCESS: SUSPECT BACKGROUND: SUSSA PAKA

EARTHBORN 2/8/61, ABDUCTED TO TALTAR, GIVEN SPECIAL ABILITIES IN CHILDHOOD BY TALTARESE, ALLOWING HER TO QUICKLY GROW HER HAIR AND TO MANIPULATE IT SKILLFULLY. ESCAPED INFLUENCE OF TALTARESE DOUBLE-X LIBERATORS, ALLEGED MATRIARCHAL TERRORISTS, RETURNED TO EARTH.

REJECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 1/1/76, EVENTUALLY CAME UNDER INFLUENCE OF LAEVAR BOLTO AND SO-CALLED LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS. WAS FIRST ARRESTED 9/8/81 IN CONNECTION WITH THE LARX KENRIK ASSASSINATION PLOT AND BRIEFLY IMPRISONED BEFORE ESCAPE. WAS LATER JAILED FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD AFTER LSV'S FAILED ATTEMPT TO SEIZE CONTROL OF ORANDO IN EARLY 2985.

THERAPY ON LABYRINTH REVEALED EXTENSIVE CHEMICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCIES APPARENTLY INSTIGATED BY BOLTO. WITH NO PROOF OF HARD-CORE CRIMINAL TENDENCIES, PAKA WAS RELEASED IN OVER-CROWDING DIRECTIVE OF 2987.

SINCE THEN, PAKA HAS BEEN SUSPECTED OF NUMEROUS MINOR CRIMES, PARTICULARLY THEFT, BUT HAS EVADED ALL ATTEMPTS TO DETAIN AND QUESTION. NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE LINKS HER WITH THE CRIMES OF WHICH SHE IS SUSPECTED.

ACCESS: SUSPECT BACKGROUND: BENN PARES

EARTHBORN 11/2/57. SUSPECTED OF NUMEROUS THEFTS BUT NOT CAPTURED UNTIL 12/7/81 ATTEMPT TO STEAL SO-CALLED MIRACLE MACHINE FROM LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES HQ. SINCE THEN ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY ON CARGGG 7/28/82, CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED, ESCAPED 5/21/83, ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY ON TOONAR 10/8/85, CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED, ESCAPED 3/4/87, ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY ON RISIUS 4 6/16/91, CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED, RELEASED 5/12/94. EXTREMELY SKILLFUL BURGLAR, BELIEVED TO HAVE COMMITTED HUNDREDS OF UNDETECTED THEFTS. WEAKNESSES INCLUDE EGO, ARROGANCE.

DISPOSITION: OFFICER DVRON GRANTED CLEARANCE TO INVESTIGATE. OFFICERS TILLEY AND NANCO ASSIGNED TO BACK UP.

